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COVID-19 NUMBERS TO DATE

As of November 18, 2022:

LOCATION	CASES	DEATHS
Worldwide	638M	6.62M
US	98M	1.09M
NYS	6.32M	76,525
Warren County	17,973	143
Essex County	7,310	71

Sources:

Source statistics can be found [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

Local resources during COVID-19:

Warren County Public Health –

518-761-6580

Mental Health Assistance –

518-792-7143

Domestic Violence Assistance –

518-793-9496

State COVID-19 Hotline –

1-888-364-3065

2023 DEADLINES AND PUBLISHING DATES

Beginning in January 2023, *The Hague Chronicle* will be published on the first of each month and the deadline for submission of articles will be the 20th of the previous month. For example, the deadline for the January 2023 issue is December 20, 2022.



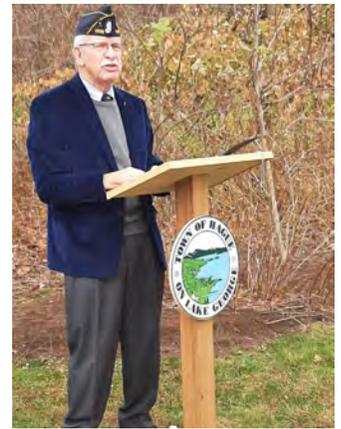
HAGUE VETERANS DAY CEREMONY 2022 *by Bob Whitaker*

On an unusually warm Veterans Day, the Hague community once again gathered at Veterans Park to honor and pay tribute to the veterans from Hague who have served our country with the more than forty million who have done so throughout our country's history.

All those who have served have sworn to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic” and each have done so without reservation and without regard to the hardships they might be asked to endure.

After an invocation provided by Bruce Tamlyn, the Pledge of Allegiance, and singing the National Anthem, Jim O’Toole recounted the service of a number of veterans from Hague, giving special recognition to Bruce Craig, who passed away since our last Veterans Day celebration.

(Continued on p. 2)



TOP, L to R: Bill Gourley, Linda Mury, and John Hanna at the bell; Jim O’Toole speaking. Courtesy of Ginger Henry Kuenzel. BOTTOM, L to R: Vets at the wall; the placing of the wreath by Art Hatfield. Courtesy of Bob Whitaker.

SENIOR CLUB NEWS

by Pat Hintze

December 1, 2022 will be Game Night at my house at 6:30 pm or a shopping spree. Check the Hague Senior Facebook page.

December 7th will be our Annual Christmas Party at Frederick's at 5 pm. It will be a good time and we are all looking forward to it.

Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and may God bless you with a happy healthy New Year. Looking forward to seeing you all in 2023! ❏



HAGUE VETERANS DAY, CONTINUED

Bruce served during World War II as a member of the 10th Army Air Corps in the China-Burma Theater, flying the famous C-47 transports carrying troops and supplies.

Bruce and his wife, Alison, later relocated to Hague to establish their real estate business and both were actively involved in the community throughout the remainder of their lives.

The veterans in attendance lined up in front of the memorial walls at the park on which are engraved the names of over 380 men and women who have served proudly in all the 11 wars and conflicts.

Art Hatfield, a veteran of the Korean War, laid the memorial wreath.

The ceremony ended with "Taps," performed flawlessly by David Facticeau, and the Benediction, led by the Reverend Scott Tyler. ❏

HVFD

by Meg Haskell

For the month of October, we had 15 fire calls and drills and eight ambulance calls, using 195 volunteer hours.

The rescue boat has been taken out of the water and is taking its winter break.

We have four members attending a basic firefighting class. Macie Peer, Donna Trudeau, Brendan Lauzon, and Adam DeBuque are attending this 79-hour course, which covers all aspects of exterior firefighting. We are very proud of these members and appreciate them for giving up their time to better serve our town.

We will be hosting "Breakfast with Santa" on Sunday, December 4th from 9:30 until 10:30 am. It will be a free pancake breakfast and, in addition to Santa, there will be crafts for the children. ❏



FRIENDS POINT ROADS CLOSING

The Friends Point Roads will be closed for the 24-hour period of 12:01 am Sunday, January 1, 2023 to 12:01 am Monday, January 2, 2023. ❏

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SEPTIC INSPECTION PROGRAM

by Ginger Henry Kuenzel

As *The Hague Chronicle* has reported on extensively, the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) is currently accepting public comments pertaining to its proposed septic inspection program. On November 22, 2022, the LGPC held a public hearing, with about 50 people attending in person and another 50 via Zoom. Dave Wick, executive director of the LGPC, gave a presentation on septic systems on Lake George, why the program is needed, and how it would be implemented. The [LGPC website](#) has detailed information on this program, as does an article on page six of the [October issue of The Hague Chronicle](#). The goal is to inspect systems close to the lake or a tributary in order to identify those that need to be repaired, upgraded,

or replaced, and are thus endangering the water quality of Lake George.

Dave pointed out that 70 percent of the properties in the Lake George Park use septic systems. About 2,700 of those are within 500 feet of the lake or 100 feet of a tributary and would thus be part of the septic inspection program. Many of those are not functioning properly, thus putting nutrients into the lake, negatively affecting our water quality.

David Miller from the Adirondack Council, Eric Siy from the Lake George Association, and Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky all praised the LGPC and its partners for their work on developing this program. They all expressed full support for the program, though Chris asked that they consider requiring that septic systems be at least 100 feet from the lake or a stream rather than the 50 feet in the current proposal. Dr. Carol Collins, a limnologist and resident of Assembly Point, agreed.

Almost all who spoke at the hearing voiced their support for the program, though one gentleman from Assembly

Point expressed concern about its 'one size fits all' approach. He questioned why a seasonal residence with little usage would need to be inspected as frequently as a home that is heavily used. He also expressed hope that the LGPC will continuously evaluate the program once it's implemented.

A few people also pointed out that some systems will be exempt from the LGPC inspections because they are overseen by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). This includes municipal sewer systems as well as some homeowner associations and motels. However, they noted, the DEC is often lax in inspecting these systems and there needs to be better oversight.

The next step is for the LGPC to carefully review and consider all the comments from the hearing and those submitted in writing before voting on whether to adopt the regulations. ❏

BRUCE TAMLYN RETIRES FROM SILVER BAY

Bruce Tamlyn plans to retire from his position as chaplain at Silver Bay at the end of 2022.

In a statement published in “Silver Bay Snippets,” Bruce said that he has deeply enjoyed his tenure with Silver Bay and that he is grateful for so many caring, supportive, and loving people who have been there for him along the way. He specifically thanked his current staff members, Carolyn Close, and Rev. Garth Allen as well as Mark and Gail Rutkowski and Chip Devenger. He also thanked the following members of the wider Silver Bay community, who have been supportive of him and the Spiritual Life Center: Bob and Jan Whitaker, Paul and Barbara Folkemer, Bob and Faith Steinfort, and Pieter and Phyllis DeSmit.



Tamlyn recalled, “Mark and Mary Johnson, through their support, care, and love, opened a place for Sarah and I and our young family to be warmly welcomed into the Silver Bay staff community in the early 90s. Their belief in the importance of a spiritual life program at Silver Bay was essential for laying the foundation for what exists today.”

He emphasized that without the vision, generosity, and support of Paul and Jane Ingrey, there would be no spiritual life program, no spiritual life director, and no chaplain at Silver Bay. They made the construction and endowments of both Brookside Community House and Trinity House, including the Spiritual Life Center, possible.

He thanked his wife, Sarah, who thirty years ago gave up a secure, tenured life in Massachusetts to move their young family to a new adventure at Silver Bay. He said, “The care, love, and support provided to me by Sarah and our three daughters over all these years has made this journey possible.”

Tamlyn explained, “My decision to retire has not been easy. I have so enjoyed my work at Silver Bay. From my time as a summer staff member in 1970 to now, my experience at Silver Bay has brought immense joy, meaning, and purpose to my life. My heart is full with the recollection of so many people, memories, services, and relationships. God has blessed me beyond measure in my time at Silver Bay.”

He concluded his comments by telling the Silver Bay community, “There are no words to describe the overwhelming sense of gratitude I feel for having had the opportunity to serve as the chaplain and director of spiritual life. It has been an honor and a privilege.”

The Hague Chronicle is happy to publish announcements of births, marriages, graduations, anniversaries of 50/55/60/65+, awards, or deaths. We will now include a high quality photo for publication in Soundings. Please send to editor@thehaguechronicle.org.

SILVER BAY TIDBITS

Silver Bay CEO Peter Doliber thanked Chaplain Bruce Tamlyn for all he's done over the years for the community, their guests, and the Y in general and wished him well in his retirement.

Some changes will be occurring in the coming months on the Silver Bay campus. These are:

1. The store will be open nine months of the year. It will also become the gift shop, which is currently located in the William Boyd Center.
2. The old gift shop space in the William Boyd Center will be converted to a fitness center, which will house cardio equipment as well as weights to provide guests with a centrally-located workout area.
3. The space behind Gullen Lounge in the inn will house a business center.
4. There will now be a self-serve coffee station in the inn.
5. The cardio loft in Fisher Gymnasium will be converted to offices for the Program Team, making the members of the team more accessible to guests using the facilities.



The management thanks the community in advance for its patience and understanding as these changes are made. Silver Bay looks forward to better serving its guests and community members. If you have any questions about the upcoming changes, please email CEO Peter Doliber at pdoliber@silverbay.org.

GIVING THANKS AFTER THANKSGIVING

By Ginger Henry Kuenzel

Thanksgiving has come and gone, and it's time for a look-back. As we all learned in school, the holiday's origins date back to the time of the Pilgrims, who put on a huge feast to thank the Native Americans for their help in settling into 'their' new country. Apparently, it wasn't yet clear to those Native Americans that the arrival of the white settlers wasn't necessarily going to be all that advantageous for them.

Today, Thanksgiving has evolved into a time for extended families to travel great distances to get together with people that they wouldn't necessarily choose to have dinner with otherwise. It all starts off early Thursday morning when the turkey gets stuffed and put in the oven. Over the many years that I have been at Thanksgiving gatherings, I can tell you that nearly any disaster that can occur has occurred – from the power going out in the middle of roasting the turkey, to pies being dropped on the floor as they come out of the oven, to candles being knocked over and setting the tablecloth on fire. But let's not focus on the negative. Let's

assume that everyone is getting along, thanks to lots of Bloody Marys, that the turkey isn't totally dried out, the vegetables didn't get burned, and that Aunt Mary actually remembered to bring the mashed potatoes this year.

After everyone says – as they do every year – "I can't believe I ate so much," the next phase begins. This entails either moving into the den with copious amounts of beer to watch a football game OR making a mad dash to the stores for some major shopping. The choice, of course, is solely dependent on whether you are male or female. In former times, the day after Thanksgiving was the year's biggest shopping day, also known as Black Friday because the huge sales enabled businesses to climb out of the red and into the black. Nowadays the sales start on Thursday. Stores advertise big-ticket items at ridiculously low prices. There is no mention of the fact that they only have one of each in stock. But people are wise to this and thus get in line hours before the stores open. As the store opening hours grow earlier and earlier, some people even skip Thanksgiving dinner in order to get in line. And although this might be good for women who are shopping for clothing and want to squeeze into that

smaller size, it's not great for family time.

Very late in the evening, the women return home, their cars laden with stuff. It's of course either not the stuff they set out to buy – since that wasn't actually available – or it *is* that stuff, but not at the sale price. Meanwhile, hopefully the guys' team won the football game so they're in a good mood – because they are going to have to carry all that merchandise into the house. And the kids, who have been at home with the guys (how much supervision do you think they got?) and have a sugar high from all the desserts, are running wild. All those items that Mom bought to put away for Christmas presents? The kids see them and start ripping open the boxes, demanding that Dad hook up the new TV, program the new Nintendo, and load all the software onto the new computer – RIGHT NOW. After all that beer, Dad isn't really in shape to do any of the above. In fact, it's good if he can just get all those boxes into the house without dropping them.

Ah, it looks like the true meaning of Thanksgiving today might be that we are thankful when it's over, the guests have left and we can finally go to bed.

■



The northern basin of Lake George from the east side of Black Mountain. Courtesy of Sandy Powell.

TOWN BOARD 2023 BUDGET MEETINGS

FIRST BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING – 10-6-22

Present: Supervisor Edna Frasier and Councilpersons Steve Ramant, Joshua Patchett, Maureen Cherubini, and Jack Bast. Also present was Deputy Highway Superintendent Matt Coffin.

The board reviewed the Tentative 2023 Budget, discussing each line item of the General Account portion. The board members were given reference sheets prepared by the Budget Officer’s Secretary to summarize expenditures. Board members and Supervisor Frasier noted a couple of suggested changes to be made on the Tentative Budget V2.

SECOND BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING – 10-13-22

Present: Supervisor Edna Frasier, Councilpersons Steve Ramant, Joshua Patchett, Maureen Cherubini, and Jack Bast. Also present was Deputy Highway Superintendent Matt Coffin.

Bast reviewed the applications and the interview process for the open position of Planning and Zoning Clerk. The Personnel Committee and Cathy Clark interviewed Mercedes Denno for the position and they recommended that Denno be hired. The board expressed concerns about her rate of pay relative to her travel time to and from work. Bast stated that these concerns were discussed with her. The motion that she be hired as the Planning and Zoning Clerk at the rate of \$16.50 per hour to work 20 hours a week between the days of Tuesday through Thursday unanimously carried.

The board reviewed the remainder of the Tentative 2023 Budget, discussing each line item. The board was given reference sheets prepared by the Budget Officer’s Secretary to summarize expenditures. Board members and Supervisor Frasier suggested a couple of changes.

THIRD BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING – 10-18-22

Present: Supervisor Edna Frasier, Councilpersons Steve Ramant, Joshua Patchett, Maureen Cherubini, and Jack Bast. Also present were Deputy Highway Superintendent Matt Coffin and Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor Diane Trudeau.

Bast reviewed the applications and the interview process for the open position of full-time maintenance worker, working both at the community center and for the highway department. Bast stated that the personnel committee received 14 applications for the position. It was recommended by the Personnel Committee and Coffin that Todd Fish be hired at the rate of \$18 per hour starting October 31, 2022.

Frasier said ZEO Magee will not be back in the office until sometime in late December and suggested that Cathy Clark be reinstated as ZEO at the rate of \$30 per hour until Magee returns. The resulting motion unanimously carried.

Coffin presented a chart explaining the potential loss of dedicated and valuable highway department employees

and requested wage increases for those employees in the 2023 budget. Coffin and Trudeau presented their findings regarding the consequences of potential wage increases and answered budget questions. A lengthy discussion ensued. The board agreed that highway department employees would receive the pay increases requested by Coffin.

The board also approved increasing the wages of Eric Kramer at the Sewer Department to \$20.50 per hour.

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD 2023 BUDGET MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING–11-2-22

Present: Supervisor Edna Frasier and Councilpersons Jack Bast, Steve Ramant, Joshua Patchett, and Maureen Cherubini. Also present was Deputy Highway Superintendent Matt Coffin.

NEW BUSINESS

Due to the fact that Mercedes Denno declined the position of Planning and Zoning Clerk, Susie Harrison was interviewed for the position. Bast described her qualifications and the motion to approve her at the rate of \$16 per hour was unanimously passed.

The motion to authorize the agreement with Porter Land Surveying for surveying work at the highway garage, with the intent to adjoin the old Hague School property to the highway garage, for the amount of \$3,500, was unanimously passed.

THE 2023 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Frasier noted that the Public Hearing Notice of the Meeting was published on October 26, 2022. Frasier reviewed with the town board members the “summary of funds and levy determination” portion of the 2023 budget.

Patchett asked Frasier to clarify that salary adjustments were included in the 2023 Preliminary Budget.

The public hearing was closed.

***AFTER NO FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT, THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2023 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AS THE FINAL BUDGET, WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OTHER BUSINESS

Patchett asked if it was known who owns the “parking area” on the West Hague Road just up from the Hague Volunteer Fire Department where there is leftover wood from logging in the area. Coffin stated he would look into it and let the board know his findings.

Patchett was approached by Barbara Trainor who she is concerned about several issues at the cemetery located on the corner of West Hague Road and Cemetery Road. He will work with her on this.

The board went into executive session to discuss personnel at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. When they came out of executive session, Frasier reported that it had ended with a motion that no action be taken.



TOWN BOARD - 11/9/2022

Present: Deputy Supervisor Steve Ramant and Councilpersons Jack Bast, Joshua Patchett, and Maureen Cherubini. Supervisor Edna Frasier was absent. Also present were: Highway Clerk/Audio Visual Technician Tim Fiallo, Zoom Host Ginger Henry Kuenzel, Deputy Highway Superintendent Matt Coffin, Pat Hintze, Mike and Peggy Kowalsky, Oliver Gourley, Linda Mury, Lindsey and Donald Smith, Jr., Luanne Fritzky, and Robert Holmes.

PRESENTATION BY JARRETT ENGINEERING ON JOHNSON APPLICATION (SECTION 93.12, BLOCK 1, SECTION 33) FOR A SEPTIC VARIANCE:

Robert Holmes of Jarrett Engineers reviewed Robert Johnson’s application, stating the current septic system needs to be upgraded, the new system will be the same layout as the current system, and the soil surrounding the site area is usable soil. One tree will need to be removed. A public hearing was set for 12-13-22 at 6 pm.

WELCOME GUESTS/PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Many people spoke of their concerns regarding conditions at the cemetery on the corner of West Hague Road and Cemetery Road. Ginger Henry Kuenzel shared the Hague Historical Society’s concerns and its plans to address them. The major concerns were:

- Determining who owns the portion of the cemetery that is not owned by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith, Jr.
- Removing the dead trees and limbs that are threatening the headstones
- Refurbishing the headstones that have been broken
- Receiving the property that is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith, Jr.

Kuenzel said the ownership of the cemetery is a very complicated issue and the Hague Historical Society is moving forward with fact finding. Hague Town Historian Sally Rypkema added that there are many veterans and much town history in that cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith, Jr. stated they are willing to give their portion of the cemetery that was purchased from the county and given to them by Donald Smith, Sr. to the Town of Hague. They said this idea was originally presented to the town when Dan Belden was the supervisor. The Smiths also stated, that, effective immediately, they will be posting the parcel of the cemetery that they own.

Ramant addressed the concerns about dead trees at the cemetery. He has recently met with the National Grid Forester, who stated that the tree heading east on West Hague Road close to the fence is, in fact, dead, but the tree that is closer to Cemetery Road is still alive. Ramant asked the forester to come back during the week of November 14, 2022 to give his opinion about the two trees in the middle of the cemetery.

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrative/Assessor/Justice: Maxwell Appraisal Service continues to work with the Hague Assessor’s Office in conducting the Town of Hague Revaluation and plans to attend the December 2022 town board meeting to report on the progress of the revaluation and to answer questions.

Buildings & Grounds: Patchett reported that the property on West Hague Road that was left a mess after logging was done there approximately three years ago is owned by the Town of Hague. He asked the board if anyone knew who the logger was and if he had permission to use the town property as a staging area. No board members had knowledge of the logger or the situation. Coffin offered for the highway crew to clean up the property and the board approved it. Patchett suggested that going forward, if any town properties are used for logging or any other resource, a contract should be written in which it is agreed that the area would be restored to its original state.

Highway: The highway department will remove the dead tree on the guy wire on Overbrook Road before winter.

Personnel: There was a high turnout for the November 8th election, as over 300 residents voted. Bast congratulated Kim Coffin on her election as Town Clerk.

Town Park/Beautification: The benches have been stored for winter. Ramant reminded everyone about the Veterans Day celebration at 11 am at Veterans Park. Linda Mury announced that the Hague Volunteer Fire Department would be serving refreshments after the ceremony.

Sewer District #1 & #2: There are currently three EDU appeals before the EDU Appeals Committee, which the committee will be investigating.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The Town of Hague Short-Term Property Rental Draft Law has been sent to the town attorney for his review and recommendations.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Bill Gourley from the Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) spoke to the board about the placement of a dry hydrant on McCoy Road. The quote for the hydrant and installation is \$4,250. The HVFD hopes to receive a grant from the DEC in the amount of \$1,500, if the board approves the hydrant.

Tim Fiallo expressed concerns with the installation of the dry hydrant related to the FEMA project that the town just completed to McCoy Road and how it could affect the project longevity with FEMA. Ramant asked Fiallo to check with FEMA regarding any future impact this would have to the project. He also asked the Hague Fish & Game Club about the use of the water supply on their property, if needed, by the HVFD.

TOWN BOARD, CONTINUED

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The Sewer District Number Two 2022 Budget was unanimously amended by increasing expenditures by \$9,823.
2. As they were the lowest bidder, the board unanimously agreed to enter into an agreement with Reale Construction to build the Yaw Road FEMA culvert project for \$752,000. ❑

PLANNING BOARD - 11/11/2022

Chairperson Dick Frasier, Pam Peterson, Judy Gourley, Meg Haskell, and new member Sandy Powell were present, along with acting ZEO Cathy Clark. ZEO Matthew McGee was absent.

MORAN (60.5-1-15) 35 Pine Cove Road (TR1)

The applicants would like to add a 528 sq. ft. addition, a 36% increase, to their legal nonconforming house on a 0.3-acre lot. The proposed addition is greater than a 25% increase. The addition would be within 15 feet of the side lot line and be more than the minimum ten-foot required setback. The lot coverage will be reduced from 33% to 29.9% due to removing three sheds and replacing existing paved areas with a combination of permeable pavers and reinforced turf. This alleviates the need for a variance for more than 30% lot coverage and the planning board's concern about parking limitations. The house is within the sewer district. The site plan review for new construction within 100 feet of the lake was unanimously approved.

GLADING/DILORENZO (12.18-1-5) 9606 Lakeshore Drive (TRI)

In June 2021, the applicants received a variance approval for more than 25% increase of sq. ft. to a nonconforming house and new construction within 100 feet of the lake. The approved plans allowed for foundation work and additions to the existing house. (See *The Hague Chronicle*, July 2021). Due to extensive damage to existing structural

components and the foundation, the applicants found that the proposed addition could not be adequately supported. At its 10/27/22 meeting, the ZBA unanimously approved amending the June 2021 approval to include the total replacement of the house and most of its foundation and noted that conditions of the previous approval apply. The planning board unanimously approved the new construction within 100 feet of the lake, with the condition that the septic tank be upgraded to a minimum of 1,750 gallons.

TONER (26.6-1-17) 4 Forest Bay Road (TRIR)

At the 4/28/22 zoning board meeting, the board unanimously approved, with conditions, the applicant's variance to demolish an 800 sq. ft. legal, non-conforming, single-family dwelling and, in its place, build a new 2,400 sq. ft., two-story structure, using the same footprint. The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) overturned the application. The new application reduces the replacement deck to approximately the same square footage as the original deck. The ZBA approved the new application, with conditions, and the APA upheld the ZBA approval. (See *The Hague Chronicle*, May 2022, July/August 2022, and September 2022 for details). The planning board unanimously approved the total replacement of the nonconforming structure, with conditions that a storm water plan is submitted to the town, assuming the APA does not warrant one. ❑

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 11/17/2022

Due to a lack of applications, the November Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for 11-17-22 was canceled. ❑

PLANNING BOARD - 11/1/2022

This meeting was canceled due to a lack of agenda items. ❑

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

by Ginger Henry Kuenzel

We're in full swing with the holiday season here in Hague. And, although this time of year can get hectic for many, I'm happy to say that the pace of life in Hague is keeping me relatively stress-free, allowing me time to reflect on Christmases past.

During the years that my kids were growing up, I lived in Germany, where many of the traditions are different from ours. Our tradition of Santa Claus

and stockings likely stems from Germany's St. Nikolaus. It is said that St. Nikolaus was a sixth-century bishop who performed kind deeds and helped children in need. Nowadays, children put a boot outside their door on St. Nikolaus Day (December 6th), and he fills it with candy, oranges, nuts and trinkets while the children sleep. Sometimes he actually shows up in the flesh. My first real encounter with him was when several families gathered at a friend's house for the event. As we awaited the arrival of Nikolaus, the

children raced about the room, on a total sugar high from cookies and candy, while the parents settled down for a long winter's night with mugs of hot mulled wine. Suddenly we heard three knocks on the door – who knows how long he had actually been knocking before we heard it – and in came Nikolaus in all his glory. My burgundy bathrobe looked perfect as his bishop's robe. His tall staff was a broom with a wooden rug beater affixed to the end. His golden book, in which he had

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WATER QUALITY MATTERS



Congratulations are in order! Hague's own Chris Navitsky is celebrating 20 years as the Lake George Waterkeeper. Chris is a resident of the Town of Hague, employee of the Lake George Association (LGA), and a 20-year member of the Waterkeeper Alliance. This alliance, founded in 1999 and with Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. as president, is a unique group of similar water quality-focused individuals around the US and the world, who share information and technology on the best ways to reduce pollution and who will fight using whatever means necessary to protect the vitality of their community and reverse what has been a downward trend in water quality. Today, the Waterkeeper Alliance unites more than 300 Waterkeeper Organizations and Affiliates that are on the frontlines of the global water crisis, patrolling and protecting more than 2.5

“
Dedicated to
Protecting
the Water
Quality of
Lake George
”

million square miles of rivers, lakes and coastal waterways on six continents.

The Waterkeeper Alliance recently published an [article](#), highlighting Chris's accomplishments over the last 20 years. They wrote, in part, "...he is making Lake George a destination for solutions. Those solutions all start with science. As just one example, by sampling and monitoring the streams and lake of the basin, Chris uncovered major nutrient pollution coming from a decrepit, Depression-era wastewater plant in Lake George Village. Catalyzed by a report written from the Lake George Waterkeeper, the community ultimately constructed a [new \\$24 million wastewater plant](#), which opened earlier this year."

This is an exciting time for Chris and Lake George. Several projects that he worked tirelessly on are coming to fruition, including the new Lake George Village wastewater treatment plant, proposed septic inspection regulations, the woodchip bioreactors in Bolton that reduce nutrient pollution, and the LID (low impact development) Certification program, aimed at reducing storm

water runoff from new construction. As if that's not enough, Chris also serves as a volunteer on Hague's Zoning Board of Appeals and Sewer Advisory Committee.

One of his most notable achievements is the road salt reduction initiative. Chris supported the acquisition of "live-edge" plows, development of brine application procedures, and GPS tracking for trucks to help Hague and other local communities save money and reduce the salt load to the lake. The program for Lake George has been so successful that Governor Hochul appointed Chris to the Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force. Click [HERE](#) to read more about how Hague is a leader in reducing road salt usage.

Chris is so dedicated that some say Lake George water flows through his veins. And if that's the case, we better all work extra hard to help keep that water clean!

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), Lance Clark, Ginger Henry Kuenzel, Steve Ramant, or me. 

TICONDEROGA AREA NORTH COUNTRY CHRISTMAS 2022

Friday, December 2nd:

Get your holiday shopping done early during this Holiday Shopping & Dining Night in Ticonderoga. Participating businesses, which will have a snowflake displayed, will be open until 8 pm. Live music will be provided by the Ticonderoga Central School Music Department and free raffles will be coordinated by the Ticonderoga Montcalm Street Partnership. Visit the special Holiday Farmers Market from 5 - 8 pm inside the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) office on Montcalm Street. You'll find an array of local products, gifts, raffles and more for the holidays.

The Parade of Lights will be in Ticonderoga from 6 - 7:30 pm.

The Christmas train will be located near the TACC office from 6 - 8 pm for children and families to explore. The Ticonderoga Heritage Museum will join the Ticonderoga Arts Gallery for a Christmas Shoppe from 10 am - 8 pm. Adirondack artists are represented in the many gifts, books, jewelry, pottery, and wood products.

Saturday, December 3rd:

Breakfast with Santa at Burleigh's Luncheonette 8 - 11 am. Cost is \$9. Professional photos with Santa for \$10. Christmas Shoppe continues at Ticonderoga Arts Gallery from 10 am - 2 pm (see listing for December 2).

Sunday, December 4th:

Hague Volunteer Fire Department will host a free Breakfast with Santa

and holiday crafts from 9:30 - 10:30 am.

Brunch with Santa at Seymour's Restaurant. Three seatings: 9 am, 10:30 am, and noon. Reservations are highly recommended. This event will also take place December 11th. Cost: \$19.99 for adults, \$9.99 ages 5-12, and children four and under are free.

Festival of Trees Open House & Reception at Hancock House 1 - 3 pm. Join the Ticonderoga Historical Society to celebrate the holidays while you enjoy four floors of trees and decorations. Paint and Sip class at the Elks Lodge at 6 pm. Cost: \$25, with proceeds benefiting the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce. 

TI-ALLIANCE ACQUIRES FORMER HACKER BUILDING

The Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance has acquired the building at 108 Montcalm Street, commonly known as Newberry's Store or the Hacker Building. This abandoned building, acquired from Essex County, has been an eyesore in downtown Ticonderoga.

"Now that the building is finally in our hands, we can begin the process of revitalization," said Ti-Alliance Executive Director Donna Wotton. "The renovation of this building will be transformative to the visual appeal of downtown Ticonderoga." Ti-Alliance will work to raise the funds required for renovation from private and public resources. It is hoped that a new feature business could be open as early as spring 2024. ❑



Photo courtesy of Google Maps

WALT LENDER NAMED TO LAKE GEORGE LAND CONSERVANCY BOARD

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) has named Walt Lender to its Board of Directors.

Walt brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding of the environmental issues facing Lake George, having served the Lake George Association as its Executive Director from 2005 to 2021. LGLC Board President Jeff



Brozyna said, "Walt has truly been one of the leaders in the effort to preserve the waters of Lake George over the past decades. He is trusted and

respected in the communities all around the lake." Earlier in his career, Walt worked at Fort Ticonderoga as Director of Development and Government and Corporate Relations Officer and as Executive Director at PRIDE of Ticonderoga. ❑

JOIN THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DECEMBER 17, 2022

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) invites people to be part of the nation's longest-running community science bird project, organized by Audubon.

LGLC's circle includes Amy's Park in Bolton south to Pilot Knob Preserve in Fort Ann, and the Schroon River in Warrensburg east to Sleeping Beauty and Black Mountain in Dresden. [Email the LGLC](#) for more info and to sign up! ❑

CHRISTMAS, CONTINUED

recorded all the kids' antics throughout the year, was a large atlas covered in aluminum foil. And, if I do say so myself, we had done a magnificent job making his tall bishop's hat the night before – while sampling the hot wine being mulled for the next night's party.

St. Nikolaus quieted the kids down and then called them to him, one by one. From his book, he read a few important facts about each child – the things they had done well during the year, and the things where they could stand to improve. They were all wide-eyed with amazement that Nikolaus knew so much about them. After patting each child on the head and giving them a bag of treats, he told them the story of Christmas. "Who knows why Joseph and Mary had to sleep in the manger?" he asked, part way through. My four-year old son Stefan knew: "Mary was going to have a baby that night and the innkeeper said that if he let her sleep in the hotel, the baby might cry and wake up the other guests." At that point, even

Nikolaus had a hard time keeping a straight face.

At the outdoor *Christkindlmarkets* (Christmas markets), Christmas decorations as well as toys and other gift items are sold at wooden booths, as choral groups perform Christmas music. And since it can get pretty darn cold standing outside at this time of year, visitors can also enjoy a mug of steaming hot wine being sold there. Do we detect a pattern here?

On Christmas Eve afternoon, the children are sent to their rooms while the tree is brought inside and decorated. Just as it's growing dark, one hears the tinkling of a bell. This is the *Christkind* (Christ Child), signaling that he has completed his work and is ascending back to heaven. The children enter the living room, where the magical *Christkind* has left behind a fully decorated tree, adorned with real burning candles, and he's left presents under the tree. I speak from experience when I say that, although the solemn beauty of the tree and candles on a dark December

afternoon is truly something to behold, it is not for the faint of heart. Anyone who has ever worried about a toddler knocking over a tree full of ornaments will understand my concern as a mother of two very active little boys. I could only imagine the nightmare before Christmas if one of them happened to get too rambunctious around that tree.

My son Toby, who was just learning to recognize the letters in his name that year, saw the T-O on all the tags and was absolutely certain that all the presents were for him. He started grabbing them. Stefan freaked out and began snatching them away. And I decided that this would be a really good time to extinguish all the candles on the tree before we ended up with a Christmas that was not all that merry and a little too bright.

I hope that all of you enjoy reminiscing about your own Christmases past with friends and family. And I wish you many, many happy moments that become your own beautiful new memories. ❑

LOOKING BACK

JABE'S POND

By Ginger Henry Kuenzel

Is it Jabe Pond? Or Jabe's Pond? Or perhaps Jabez Pond? A recent article in the *Adirondack Explorer* newsletter asking that same question caught my attention. I live just down the hill from the pond and hike there frequently. Although the pond is popular with kayakers and anglers on weekends, I often find myself alone there on a weekday. It's not that life in Hague could be considered stressful, but when I sit on a rock looking down into the pond's glassy clear water, it feels like I'm just one step further removed from all the problems of the world.

But back to history. I turned to our Town Historian, Sally Rypkema, who lives even closer to the pond than I do and is definitely the go-to person if you want to know anything about Hague's history. Sally stopped by my house with a few books, an armload of file folders filled with newspaper clippings and handwritten notes, and several tales of her own about Jabe's Pond - which is what I have always called it and will continue to do so.

Our story starts in the mid-1700s, when Samuel Adams - not the famous one from Boston - received a land grant of 500 acres, which included today's Sabbath Day Point. Adams opened one of Hague's first boarding houses, as a way station for boaters traveling on Lake George. In the late 1700s, Adams sold the property to his cousin Samuel Patchin, a former captain and POW in the Revolutionary War.

Patchin and his wife Hannah had 12 children. Jabez (1783 -1847), their oldest son, was somewhat of a loner, though it seems that might have been somewhat difficult with 11 siblings in the house. When it came time for him to take over his father's boarding house, he decided to literally head for the hills. He moved to what we now know as Jabe's Pond, built a small cabin and spent his days hunting, fishing and farming, becoming completely self-sufficient. I do have to wonder, however, if he occasionally hiked down from the mountain for Sunday dinner with the family, bringing his laundry with him.



Jabez was particularly fond of fishing, as Charles Clifford King, Jr. tells us in his book *Andia-Ta-Roc-Te*. King relates how Jabez left his hayfield to the mercy of an approaching storm when a friend stopped by to tell him that the pickerel in the pond were biting. Jabez dropped what he was doing, King tells us, even though it meant sacrificing his hay harvest.

By around 1806, Jabez apparently grew tired of life on the mountain and moved down to the shores of Lake George. He built the first cabin on land that is today owned by the Silver Bay Association and married Sally Garfield, who bore him 12 children. Many years later, someone - though our documentation is not clear who - built a cabin on one of the islands on

Jabe's Pond. It is likely that the cabin's owner was forced off the island when New York State adopted the Forever Wild clause of its constitution which prohibits private structures on forest preserve land, though some claim that the cabin burned. Whichever statement is true, all that remains of that cabin today is the chimney. ❏

FESTIVAL OF TREES AT HANCOCK HOUSE

The Ticonderoga Historical Society is hosting its annual Festival of Trees / Christmas Around the World Wednesdays - Saturdays throughout December from 10 am – 4 pm at the Hancock House.

The museum is bedecked with holiday decorations and trees creatively fashioned by the community. This North Country tradition returns with a global look at the holidays of many countries. The ever-popular holiday train layout, made possible by grants from Stewart’s Shops and the Ticonderoga Cultural Arts Alliance and courtesy of the Upstate Model Railroaders, is back again this year.

Group tours for schools and other organizations are also available by reservation. For more information, click [HERE](#). ❏



TI-ALLIANCE RECEIVES GRANT TO DEVELOP CHILDCARE RESOURCES

The Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance has received a grant from the Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation to support their efforts of creating childcare resources in the Ticonderoga Area. The Alliance recently organized the Ticonderoga Community Childcare Alliance, a team of 15 professionals and volunteers in the area – including Hague – with a connection to childcare and the mission to help develop public childcare resources in the area.

The group will work to establish a childcare center that will be able to service at least 55 children from infant to preschool age.

For more information, click [HERE](#) or contact Donna Wotton at donna@ticonderoga-alliance.org. ❏

TI’COUSTICS RETURNS TO THE STAGE

Ti’coustics is back, with twice-monthly programs during which local musicians perform in an open mic setting. The events are held at the Knights of Columbus at 103 Montcalm Street in Ticonderoga from 6 – 8 pm.

On the first Thursday of each month, the setting will be a music circle called Ti’Round. Musicians sit in a circle, taking turns leading a song of their choice. The other musicians as well as the audience are invited to join in.

The traditional Ti’coustics program will be held on the third Thursday of each month, featuring four acts of local musicians playing songs they have selected. Musicians should bring their own microphones and Ti’coustics will provide sheet music stands and microphone stands with lights.

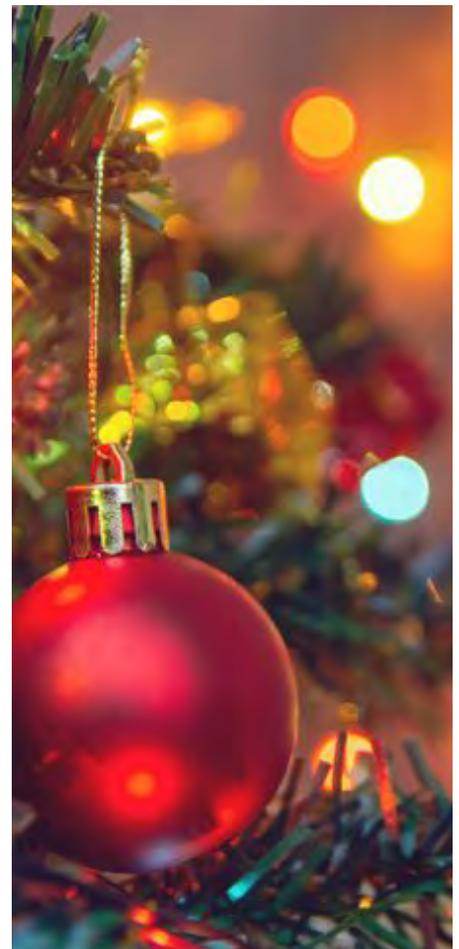
For further information, call Roberta Whiteley at 518-585-6837. ❏

SUPPORTING THE HAGUE CHRONICLE :You can make a tax-deductible donation to *The Hague Chronicle* any time [HERE](#). Our all-volunteer staff thanks you for the encouragement and the support you provide! We couldn't do it without you!

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ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

CALENDAR

December 2022

DECEMBER

1	The December issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i> is published	1 pm	Open House for Festival of Trees at Hancock House
6 pm	Ti'coustics at Knights of Columbus	6 pm	Paint and Sip at Elks Lodge
6:30 pm	Senior Club Game Night	7 5 pm	Senior Club Annual Christmas Party
7 pm	Planning Board Meeting	8 4 pm	YOGA at Fisher Gym Silver Bay
2 5 pm	Ticonderoga Area Christmas Shopping and Dining	13 6 pm	Town Board Meeting
3 8 am	Breakfast with Santa at Burleigh's Luncheonette	17	LGLC Christmas Bird Count
10 am - 5 pm	Christmas Shopping at Ticonderoga Arts	18 - 26	HANUKKAH
4 9:30 am	Breakfast with Santa and Crafts at Hague Volunteer Fire Department	20	The deadline for the January issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i>
	Brunch with Santa at Seymour's	22 7 pm	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
		25	CHRISTMAS DAY

TRANSFER STATION HOURS: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm