



VOLUME 37 NO 5

HAGUE, N.Y. 12836

May 2008

The Hague Senior Citizens' Club Sponsors

TOWN OF HAGUE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND FUNFEST



Saturday, May 24th, 2008

Schedule of Events

9 am to noon: "Ready to Go" Doggie Show in Town Park

10 am to 4 pm: Funfest at the Hague Town Park - Route 9N

12:30 pm Cambridge Band Live Concert

DJ Music all day by Steve Pelkey, WOKO Radio Personality

Crafters, Flowering Plants, White Elephants

Kids' Games, Face Painting, Dunking Booth

Food Concessions by local organizations - Hoagies, Hot Dogs, Burgers

Soft Drinks, Baked Goods, and more

2 pm: Parade - Route 8 to Hague Town Park on 9N

Ticonderoga Fife & Drum, Cambridge Band, Galloway Gaelic Pipes and Drums, Peru Indians, Schroon Lake, West Rutland School Bands, Hague Floats and Marching Units,

Classic Cars, Clowns, Shriners, Tarry Ho Miniature Horses from Vermont,

Revolutionary Reenactors, Ticonderoga Flying Leathernecks Marines Color Guard

Prizes for Best in Parade, Most Creative, Most Patriotic, Best Adirondack

3:30 pm: Memorial Service - Rifle Salute, Drum Rolls, Taps

4 - 8 pm: HVFD's Old Fashioned Chicken BBQ - Route 8

Tickets at the Door - Hague Fire House or from HVFD Members

Our April meeting at Silver Bay was such a success – the golf cart tours being a highlight! – that we hope to make it an annual event. So if you missed it this year, watch this column for an encore visit in 2009!

As you can well imagine, the Seniors are busy-as-beavers getting ready for Memorial Day in Hague. Once again, Madeline Pelkey and her team have put together an outstanding day and we look forward to seeing all our Hague neighbors out that day. Many of you have contributed items for our White Elephant table and we have a wide selection so be sure to stop by to say hello and pick up a few “treasures” – lots of books, puzzles, knick-knacks, hand-made afghans, wicker porch furniture, etc., etc., etc.!

Our May meeting will be the annual “thank you” luncheon which will begin at 12 noon on Tuesday, May 27, at the Community Center and will feature “make-your-own-sundae” as the dessert entrée. If you haven’t already paid your dues, Gladys Graser will be glad to collect them that day. It’s the best bargain around!

Weather permitting, we’ve arranged for a mini-trip to the Kings Garden at Fort Ticonderoga on Thursday, June 12. Pack a picnic lunch and meet at the Community Center at 11:30 am that morning for car pools. The Garden is expecting us at noon and will offer an optional tour at 1:30. The Kings Garden is a lovely local attraction; we’ll have a sign-up sheet at our May meeting or just call Pat McDonough 543-6725 to let us know you want to join us.

Mark your calendar for the Seniors Picnic on Tuesday, August 26. Details will follow in later Chronicles.

Did you know? The Aviation Mall in Queensbury offers Senior Discount Cards. Just stop by their office at the mall and pick up Cards which will offer you 10 – 50% off at participating stores such as Belden Jewelers, The Bon Ton, Friendly’s Restaurant, Regis Hair Salon and others. ...Pat McDonough

MEMORIAL DAY DONATIONS

The Senior Citizens Club and the Parade Committee wish to thank all of you have contributed to date to this year’s Memorial Day event in Hague. We do need more help to keep it going. For those who have not yet responded to our plea, any size donation is welcome. Please make checks payable to HAGUE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB, PARADE ACCOUNT - mail to Hague Community Center, PO Box 509, Hague, NY 12836. ...Madeline Pelkey

The Hague Senior Citizens Club is holding the AARP safe driving program, instructed by Charlie Antonetti of Hague, on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 from 9 am to 5 pm. The Club will provide refreshments for the morning break and participants should bring their own “brown bag” lunch.

This driving course is open to all Club members and any other Seniors (50+) in the area. There is a limit on the number of participants so you must sign-up in advance. The cost is \$10 with checks being made out to AARP.

The AARP Driver Safety Program is an 8-hour classroom refresher that can help you learn the effects of aging on driving and how you can adjust your driving as well as save money on insurance premiums.

For further information or to register, contact Club President Judy Stock at 543-6517 or <haguejudy@nycap.rr.com>.

MEMORIAL DAY 2008

Saturday, May 24th will be Hague's sixth Memorial Day Celebration which the Hague Senior Citizens Club has sponsored. See page 1 for all the details.

The “GOD BLESS AMERICA” PARADE begins promptly at 2 pm, rain or shine, with parade lineup starting at 1 pm. Parade Winners will be announced immediately following at the beach.

The Memorial Service should start about 3:30 pm with a slightly new format. There will be a short Memorial Procession at the beginning to set the stage. Our Guest Speaker will be Dottie Henry who as a World War II WAC Sergeant has many memories of what it was like to be in the Military Service at that time. She will share with us her thoughts about Memorial Day.

This event will be another wonderful community celebration - HAGUE'S DAY TO REMEMBER. ...Madeline Pelkey

HONORING THE US FLAG

During a parade, at the moment the American Flag passes you, all should stand at attention facing the flag with their right hands over their hearts. Persons in uniform should stand at attention, face the flag and render the military salute.

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 address corrections to Judy Stock at <HagueChronicle@nycap.rr.com>.

The Hague Chronicle is supported by its readers and you may send your yearly tax deductible contribution (check your label) to: the Treasurer, George Ianson at:

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

Editor/Publisher: Judith Stock (518-543-6517)

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Features: Nancy Wotton Scarzello, JoAnne DeFranco, Stan Burdick

Our website: www.thehaguechronicle.org

BLUEGRASS AND STEAK AT FISH & GAME

The Hague Fish & Game Club will host the Champlain Valley Bluegrass members for a mini-festival on June 7th and 8th. The event will be held at the Club on West Hague Road where a steak dinner will be served on Saturday from 3 to 5 pm. The dinner will be \$13 and is limited to the first 150 ticket purchases. Refreshments will be available and you can bring your instruments to join the fun.

Tickets will be sold at the Fish & Game Club table near the dunking tank during the Memorial Day Funfest on May 24th or call Val Lawrence at 543-6846.

The Hague Fish & Game Club has also announced the raffle winner of the Mossburg Turkey Shotgun was Jim Hunsdon of Crown Point.

TAI CHI CLASSES CONTINUE

Mae Pagan has announced the new schedule of T'ai Chi classes. They will be held in the Community Center on Thursdays from 6 - 7 pm for the 5 week spring session beginning on May 22. There is also a 6 week session that began May 13 on Tuesdays from 6 - 7 pm at the Ticonderoga Elementary School library.

WITH THE LGA

The Lake George Association (LGA) is recruiting volunteers for the season to find and identify the various types of turtles around the area and report back to the Lake George Turtle Monitoring Project team. According to Emily DeBolt, Education Outreach Coordinator, "A healthy turtle population indicates good water quality. The LGA is hoping to use the data collected by the monitors to look for trends."

Volunteers are asked to go out only 4 times during the summer for a minimum of 30 minutes each time. To sign up or for more information, contact the LGA at 668-3558 or <ebolt@lakegeorgeassociation.org>.

The LGA warns early season boaters to watch out for dangerous floating debris.

MEMORIAL FLOWER BASKETS

The hanging flower baskets will soon be put up and donations for these displays can be sent to the Town of Hague, PO Box 509, Hague, NY 12836.

LGLC PROGRAMS

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) offers free "Walks and Talks" programs. Visitors are also welcome to use the reference library at the new Macionis Family Center for Conservation in downtown Bolton Landing.

To register for these programs contact the LGLC at 644-9673 or <shoffman@lgc.org>.

Wed. May 21, 6 pm - Macionis Family Center. "The Art of Stillness." Join Reiki Master and massage therapist Helena Holod. Learn to relax, cope with stress, increase your energy and enhance mental clarity and focus. Techniques are easy to use and appropriate for all age levels.

Sat. May 31, 10 am - 2 pm National Trails Day at Cook Mt. Preserve, Ticonderoga. Volunteer to help clear trails of brush, replace trail markers and install waterbars to reduce trail erosion. Some tools provided, but bring your own, if you wish. Call for more details.

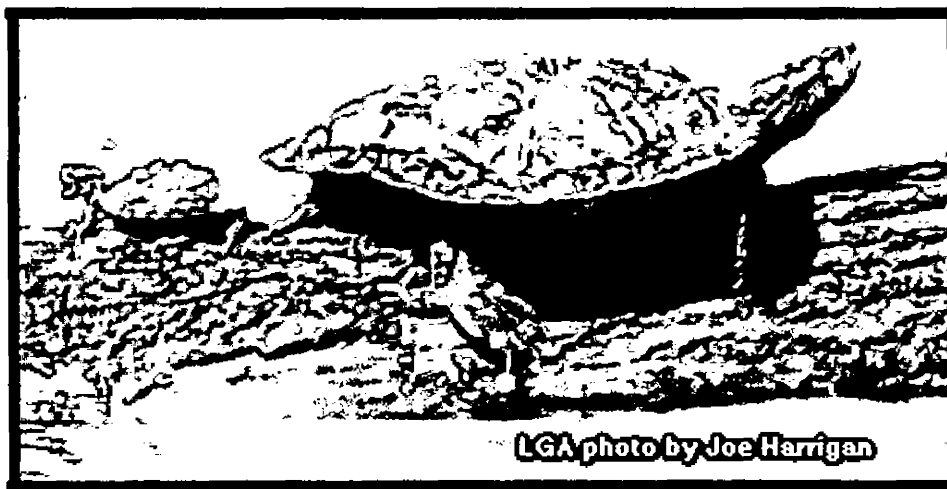
Thurs. June 12, 7 pm - Macionis Family Center. Lake George Nature Talk: "Birds in the Lake George Watershed- from Nuisance Waterfowl to Endangered Species." Joe Racette, Wildlife Biologist for NYSDEC, will speak about coordinating the volunteer monitoring of peregrine falcon nests in the Adirondack-Lake Champlain region, bird conservation and management concerns, including the overpopulation of Canada geese and double crested cormorants.

LGPC MEETING

The Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) has organized a stakeholder organization workshop on stream corridor management within the Lake George Park for Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at 2 pm at the Fort William Henry Conference Center, Lake George, NY.

The meeting is part of a project by the Commission to better protect the Lake's water quality by developing a stream corridor management program and regulations. There will be reports on stream buffers, development of standards for Lake George and results of a stream mapping project.

The public is welcome to attend. Find more information at <www.lgpc.state.ny.us> or call 668-9347.



LGA photo by Joe Harrigan

LOCAL HUMOR CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Popular presenters Bruce Tamlyn and cartoonist Stan Burdick will both be featured speakers at the 52nd International Program on "The Positive Power of Humor & Creativity" sponsored by The HUMOR Project. The conference will take place at the Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks from June 20 - 22, 2008. Another presenter will be Lucie Arnaz, daughter of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, who will accept the Laughtime Achievement Award on behalf of her parents.

Bruce Tamlyn is the Director of Spiritual Life at the Silver Bay YMCA as well as founder and director of the Leadership for Life training and development company. He has been leading workshops for 20 years and will present a session on "Going in (Personality) Style with Emotional Intelligence: Are We Funny People or What!" Rev. Tamlyn will also shine his amusing grace in an ecumenical service entitled "Service with a Smile: To Keep the Faith, Keep Your Sense of Humor."

Stan Burdick is the founder and curator of the Cartoon Museum located in Ticonderoga, NY and a guest cartoonist for The Hague Chronicle. The Museum is the culmination for him of over 50 years of cartoon collecting and includes cartoons dating from as far back as 1830. He will set up a traveling exhibit from the Cartoon Museum and give a talk about his years of collecting including "fun factoids about famous cartoonists."

For more information, contact The HUMOR Project, Inc., Saratoga Springs, NY <www.HumorProject.com> or call 587-8770.

MANY RETAIL CHANGES

In Silver Bay, Sal Santaniello is now operating "Sal's Selective Consignment Shop," and he is looking for things to sell. If you have an appropriate item you would like to turn into cash, take it to the Silver Bay General Store. While there you can also learn about Kathy Santaniello's new property management venture. For more information on either of these two new services, call 543-6441 or 543-6434.

In Ticonderoga, the Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the Grand Opening of the new Best Western Ticonderoga Inn & Suites on Burgoyne Road will take place on Friday, May 23, 2008 at 11:30 am. This new motel features the Burgoyne Grille, an indoor heated pool and spa, a fitness center and banquet and conference facilities.

Country Florist has relocated to Montcalm Street and will be open from 8:30 am to 6 pm during the week and until 4 pm on Saturday. They still have cut flowers and arrangements but have greatly expanded the gift areas which now include baby items, candles, fresh chocolates and a Christmas area.

NOTEWORTHY

Although *The Hague Chronicle* has had flyers attached to the mailings previously, this issue is the first to have a full 12 pages!

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HAGUE CHRONICLE BOARD MEETS

The Board of Directors of *The Hague Chronicle* met twice this year. In January they elected Pat McDonough to the Board and heard a treasurer's report from George Ianson. The checking account had a balance of \$6114.40. There are also 2 CD's totaling \$7000. The interest goes toward the Dorothy Henry Scholarship established by *The Hague Chronicle* for a graduating student from Ticonderoga High School.

In May the Board met to discuss the results of the Survey that was sent out with the donation acknowledgments. Of the 542 surveys sent out, 34% of them were returned. Of those returned, 31% were from year-round residents, 54% from seasonal residents and 15% from other readers (former residents, have vacationed in Hague, live in area, have family in area, etc). Over 80% of the respondents checked "very interested" in the areas of Town Government, Local Events and Area History. There were a few good suggestions made which the Board is considering and many, many people were generous in their appreciation of receiving *The Hague Chronicle*. A few specifically responded, "Leave it the way it is."

The Board also discussed the issue of reporters and staffing. There is a wonderful mailing team that gets together to get out the paper each month. But there are few volunteers to help with reporting, gathering and editing the news. We would be delighted if someone would like to join us on a regular basis or even be a guest editor one month.

The current Board members are Judy Stock, Editor/Publisher; George Ianson, Treasurer; Nancy Young, Secretary; John Barber, Michele Gautreau, Christine Ianson, Pat McDonough and Dottie Henry, Emerita.
...Judy Stock

HCAA PLANS "BYOE" PICNIC

After last summer's successful and fun-filled all-school reunion in August during the Bicentennial celebration, the newly-formed Hague Central Alumni Association (HCAA) started a newsletter for members, The Raider Review, which is published in the fall and spring. Membership dues are \$5/year and a renewal notice will be sent out in the spring edition of The Raider Review.

A "BYOE" (Bring Your Own Everything) picnic to keep members connected is being planned for Saturday, July 12, 2008 at the Hague Volunteer Fire Dept. pavilion. For further information contact Kathy Santaniello at 543-6434.

2008 TRIATHLON VOLUNTEERS

Want to get involved but not interested in actually racing? The North Country Triathlon organizers are looking for volunteers who are just as excited and motivated about helping out as the athletes are to race in the event on June 28, 2008. There was a truly fantastic group of volunteers in 2007 and they hope to see many of the same faces again this year.

If you are interested - fill out the volunteer form on the NCT site at <www.northcountrytri.com>.

FROM THE DESK OF THE TOWN HISTORIAN

Gerald Crammond, Hague Town Historian, has just completed typing into his computer all the records of deaths, marriages and births from 1887 to 1908. Gerry reports he found the task "very interesting" and noted "There was a fair amount of activity during those times as the Graphite mines were in full operation and the population in this area boomed."

One of the most disturbing facts was that over 35 deaths were recorded for children under the age of 16. In one incident in 1894, the Congdon family lost 5 children, ages 2 to 14 years old, in a span of three days due to diphtheria. Some of the doctors named were J. P. Cummings, G. H. Beers, D. S. Sandon and R. C. Wilcox.

There are marriage records which are good for genealogy since they include information on both parties' families. He said there were "many cases where the groom was in his thirties or forties who were marrying girls as young as sixteen or eighteen." The most prominent minister during this time was Joseph Dunn, D.D.

Jerry has noted some of the names - Braistead, Carney, DeLarm, Fish, Rising, Yaw, Sexton, Balcom and Jordan - are still familiar to many. Anyone wanting to review the records can leave their name at the Community Center (543-6161) and he will get back to you.

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting Monday, June 23rd at 7 pm at the Hague Community Center. Please join us and don't forget to bring your annual \$5.00 dues! There'll be a brief business meeting, a program, and refreshments. The program will be presented by our Vice President Gale Halm who will share with us some wonderful film footage from the first half of the 20th century. These films capture life on the shores of Lake George at the height of the hotel era.

Presently, we have a few needs that Chronicle readers may be able to help with: 1) We'd like to borrow a camcorder to help us prepare a program on Graphite for this summer; and 2) We need volunteers to serve on our Programs, Publicity and Membership committees. If you're able to help with any of these needs, please call Pat McDonough at 543-6725 or Gale Halm at 543-6825.

Our 2007 Robert M. Decker note cards are once again available at Junipers and the Silver Bay General Store. Our 2008 note cards are called "Seasons" for which we've selected four seasonal photographs from the collection of the Hague Historical Museum. These cards are a wonderful way to help support your Historical Society and both will be available at the annual meeting.

The Exhibits and Collections committees have been busy at work on new exhibits - one on cookbooks and one on Hague's early schools. We are most interested in any old photographs or memorabilia from the era of schools prior to the consolidated Hague School District in 1927. If you have anything which you think might be of interest, we would like to have an opportunity to scan it for the collection. Please call Kathi Ramant 543-6542 or Pat McDonough 543-6725 and we'll arrange to borrow, scan, and quickly return your materials.

The Historical Society has put together a number of binders containing lots of local lore, history and pictures. They're always available on the table in the Museum so come in and enjoy a good read.



GENERAL HAMMOND LOCOMOTIVE

Woo . . . Woo . . . What's that? It's the General Hammond Steam Locomotive back in Hague for the Memorial Day Festivities! Be sure to watch for this reproduction of the 1870's locomotive in the parade and down at the Hague beach during the day.

The General Hammond was Engine No. 1 in the small fleet of the Crown Point Iron Company's Railroad. Manufactured in 1873 in Scranton, PA, it began its Adirondack service in January 1874 hauling iron ore from the mines in Hammondville to the shores of Lake Champlain where it was off-loaded onto canal boats that moved it to Albany, Troy, and Pennsylvania for manufacturing.

The original engine was a 22 ton, narrow gauge locomotive named in honor of the company's chief executive, General John Hammond, whose family was heavily invested in the Crown Point Iron Company. By 1885 the General Hammond was retired and the last shipments of iron ore came down the mountain in July 1893.

From "Rails in the North Woods, Histories of Ten Adirondack Short Lines", by Richard S. Allen, William Gove, Keith F. Maloney, Richard F. Palmer.

GILLIBRAND AT WORK

Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand has held numerous town hall forums throughout the district in order to hear from constituents about property and school tax burdens. She has encouraged the Property Tax Relief Commission to find a comprehensive solution that will reverse the recent sharp increases in property taxes, including finding alternative funding for schools.

Gillibrand has strongly advocated ending unfunded mandates, such as No Child Left Behind, which place an unfair burden on school and local government budgets and result in higher property taxes. She is also the sponsor of the Property Tax Relief Act which will enable the 1.4 million New York homeowners who do not itemize their tax returns to deduct their property taxes on their federal tax return.

Mrs. Gillibrand has also introduced a bill to help Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. It would mandate that the Pentagon provide a benefits handbook to every service member that is leaving active duty so that they are aware of the earned benefits they, and their families, should receive.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 4/24/08

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

The Board accepted the following applications as complete, set dates for a site visit and will hold any hearings next month.

Johnson (12.18-1-16) Lakeshore Drive (TR-1)

Application to replace an existing 459 sq. ft. structure and deck with a new 512 sq. ft. structure and deck.

Navitsky (93.19-1-10) 7763 Lakeshore Drive (RC)

Application to expand and relocate a previously approved garage and approval for a 96 sq. ft. shed which has been placed upon the lot.

Van Buskirk (93.19-1-2) 7796 Lakeshore Drive (RC)

Application to install a 176 sq. ft. patio of pavers with a crushed rock base on a legal nonconforming lot.

PLANNING BOARD - 5/1/08

Chairman E.J. Siwek, Rolly Allen, John Brown, Martin Fitzgerald, Sr., Richard Frasier and Pam Peterson were present and Bruce Clark was absent.

Johnson (12.18-1-16) Lakeshore Dr. TR1

The applicant would like to demolish an existing 459 sq. ft. structure and deck and construct a new 512 sq. ft. cabana and deck. The existing structure sits on the south side of the parcel, 1 foot from the MHW of Lake George. If approved the new cabana and deck will sit 8 ft. from the MHW of the lake and be located on the north side of the property.

After a site visit, the Board voted to recommend against variance approval by the ZBA since there is already an appropriate place for an accessory structure.

Navitsky (93.19-1-10) 7763 Lakeshore Dr. RC

The applicant would like to expand and relocate a previously approved garage and would like approval for a 96 sq. ft. shed already placed upon the lot. This approval would require relief from a condition placed on the 2006 approval that there be no further increase of lot coverage.

The Board voted to recommend approval by the ZBA since the change is minor.

Van Buskirk (93.19-1-2) 7796 Lakeshore Dr. RC

The applicant would like to install a 176 sq. ft. stone patio with a crushed rock base on a legal non-conforming lot. The existing house now covers 15.9% of the lot. If approved the patio would be a .35% increase. A landscape plan has been submitted.

The Board voted to recommend the ZBA approve the request with conditions that an appropriate vegetative plan be executed with native plantings and the base for the patio should be installed to allow for proper drainage.

More (93.12-1-13) 132 Sabbath Day Point Rd TR1

The applicant would like to construct a 696 sq. ft. deck within 100 feet of the lake. In 2006 the Planning Board approved an application for a 1200 sq. ft. addition to an existing structure and a two-car garage. Mr. More has since decided not to build the addition or the garage. Thinking he had met the zoning requirements, he had begun building on the lot and apologized for the mistake.

The Board voted to recommend approval based on the submitted plans with the addition of a vegetative buffer to shield the deck from the lake.

Strutz (26.18-1-10) 9222 Lakeshore Dr. TR1

The applicant would like to place an 8 ft by 12 ft. storage shed 75 ft. from the lake and would also like to construct two retaining walls, 18 in. high for the purpose of terracing the front slope of the property.

The Board deemed the application complete and scheduled a site visit.

Marschner (43.17-1-6) 29 Springdale Manor TR1

In 2006 the ZBA approved an application for a 110% addition to an existing non-conforming house with the condition there be no increase to the existing footprint. When construction began it was found the existing first floor components were not sound. The applicants have had to replace most of the first floor, changing the proposal from an addition to an existing structure to more of a total replacement.

The Board voted to accept the new plan.

Code modification - Definition of structures

It was decided to send the recent draft by Chairman Siwek to Town Attorney Viscardi for his review and integration into the Code.

TOWN BOARD MEETING - 5/13/08

Supervisor Belden and Board members Dick Gladu, Rudy Meola and Edna Frasier were present. Mark Martucci was absent due to family illness.

A moment of silence was held for Hannah Conlon Cameron.

Committee Reports:

Assessor & Justice: There is an opening for secretary of the planning and zoning boards as well as the clerk to the Town Justice and an office helper. The Personnel Committee will review the needs and come back with a proposal for perhaps a single administrative position for 20-25 hours per week.

Councilman Gladu reported on the summary of the 2008-2009 proposed Ticonderoga School Budget and noted some voter statistics (see back page). He said that next year Superintendent McDonald will put a budget meeting early on the agenda for Hague.

Cont'd on page 7 - Town Board

Buildings & Grounds Council member Frasier noted that since Mr. Martucci is absent, she will get together with him to discuss getting the building clean and a proposal for the back deck in time for next month. She said that work on the lobby will be done in September when the building is less busy.

Enhancement Committee: Board member Frasier said that the plants for downtown have been ordered and they need to make sure they are watered in the spring. Mike Beneduce has donated plants for the bridge.

Finance & Insurance: Board member Frasier reported that she had contacted a retired auditor who is familiar with the NYS audit regulations who will send in a proposal to go over the procedures we should be using.

Councilman Meola reported that the bank was still paying the 1.3% interest on the cash accounts instead of the amount presented in their proposal because no letter had gone out informing them that we accepted the proposal. Mrs. Frasier said that as soon as she realized the letter had not gone out she did contact them. Mr. Meola asked Supervisor Belden why the proposal had not been sent out earlier after approval at the April Board meeting. Mr. Belden's response was merely to become irate that it had been brought up.

Fire Department: A report was given on the May 8th special meeting noting the significant progress made by the Fire Department. Supervisor Belden noted that the dry hydrants seemed to be working now and nothing will be dug up.

Highway: Councilman Gladu reported that the Highway Department had been sweeping the roads, including some hand sweeping, and that 227 yards of sand have been picked up with more to do. By picking up this sand it will not get into the Lake. The Department also picked up the storm debris from the side of the road and have chipped nearly 500 cu. yds. so far. There are chips up by the highway garage for any resident who needs some.

The potholes on Route 9N have been reported and are scheduled to be done before Memorial Day.

The Board also voted to send out a proposal for bids for sand for next year.

Museum & Historian: Council member Frasier presented an inquiry from the Hague Historical Society about funds to replace some of the fencing in the old cemetery adjacent to Pine Orchard Road. The Society will be cleaning up the area this spring. The debris will be put out by the road and the Highway Department will be asked to pick it up.

Planning/Zoning/Stormwater: An inventory of the culverts will be made. ZEO Clark organized a workshop in Hague for training for Zoning and Planning Board members.

Recreation & Youth: The YMCA summer program has been organized and the Town is waiting for the applications to come in from Silver Bay. Any youth who want to take part in the summer program can call the Community Center (543-6161) and the application will be sent out.

Sewer Dist. #1 & #2: The Board authorized the attendance of Supervisor Belden at the Land & Water Grant funding conference in Saratoga Springs.

Town Park: The Beach should be cleaned up by Memorial Day. More sand is needed and the Board authorized getting any that the DEC would approve.

Transfer Station: Councilman Gladu gave the Board a summary related to a proposal with Casella Waste Management. They would like a change in hours and higher fees for the 30 gallon bags as well as the Town to pay a portion of the hauling fees. More negotiations will take place.

Under other business the Board:

Agreed to put up a new sign at the Town Park but will hold off to get comparison prices.

Approved additional summer staff with Joan Steitz in the Visitor Center, Kaley Manning to help with Park Maintenance, Kathi Ramant as a Park Attendant substitute and Brendan Carberry as an alternate lifeguard.

Authorized Supervisor Belden to attend the June 1st & 2nd annual meeting of the Association of Adirondack Towns and Villages to be held at Lake Placid.

Discussed purchasing a truck but will continue leasing until then.

Discussed a letter from the Hague Chamber of Commerce with a request for a change in the Town Alcohol Beverages Ordinance which would allow alcohol to be served at special events in the Town Park. The matter will be on the agenda for next month with more information on insurance costs to cover it.

Approved a change in name of "Winnie Drive" to "Jenkins Point Drive."

Discussed an application to the NYS DOT Transportation Enhancement Program for money for the Walkway project. Since it will also involve costs to the Town, the Board will meet with the Walkway Committee on May 19th.

Authorized the Supervisor to sign an Inter-Municipal Agreement between the Town and members of the Lake George Watershed Conference for \$700 to share the use of TV camera & equipment to inspect sewer lines.

Approved \$100 from occupancy tax funds to promote the Dog Show being put on by Linda Benway at the Town Park.

Cont'd on page 8- Town Board

Cont'd from page 7 - Town Board

Discussed funding and status of the Snow Park at Sabbath Day Point. The Town has already paid \$3000 for the survey and \$7500 may be needed for an engineering plan. It will cost over \$250,000 to build with half the funds coming from a grant and the other half from in-kind services from the Town. Issues of the easement and adjacent property still need to be discussed.

Approved an adjustment of the ice and snow contract which will provide the Town with additional money for fuel and equipment.

Accepted the lowest bid for landscaping 3 Town areas - at the Community Center, Town Park and triangle at intersection of Rt 9N and Rt 8.

Learned that Saturday and Sunday, June 28 & 29, 2008 are designated as Free Fishing Days in New York State. During those two days, anyone can fish New York State waters, and no fishing license is required.

The Board then went into Executive Session with Linda Benway to discuss concerns about the position of Animal/Dog Control Officer.

FREE CLEANUP DAY

Hague's Annual Free Cleanup Day will be held on Friday, June 13 & Saturday, June 14, 2008.

For Hague Residents sixty (60) years of age or older and those who are physically disabled/handicapped, the Town Highway Department will do pickups between the hours of 6 am - 2 pm on both days. Preregistration is mandatory for this pickup service by calling the Community Center at 543-6161 by 4 pm on Thursday, June 12, 2008. ALL items for pickup MUST be sorted and placed at the roadside prior to 6 am on June 12th and may not exceed a combined total that will fit into a standard size pick up truck. These procedures must be followed or the items will not be picked up.

Other Town Residents may bring one standard size pickup truck load for free to the Town of Hague Highway Department from 7 am to 3 pm only on those days.

Acceptable Items which must be sorted may include but are not limited to White Goods (stove, washer, dryer, etc), Furniture (Chairs, TV, sofa, rugs, etc.) and Metal.

Do NOT use unacceptable items which include Recyclables, Garbage, Brush/leaves, C & D (construction materials), Tires, Propane tanks, refrigerators, air conditioners, dehumidifiers.

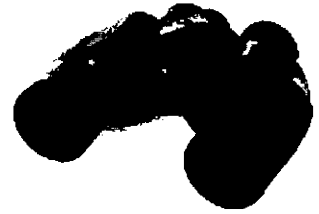
A flyer with this information is available at the Community Center and Post Office. For questions and registration for pick-up, call 518-543-6161.

ARTS FAIR VENDORS

Vendors of hand-crafted items are still needed for the 37th Annual Hague Arts Fair on August 2-3, 2008. Contact Judy Schultz, <hagueartsfair@yahoo.com> or 543-6769.

The article last month was from the October 1978 issue of *The Hague Chronicle*- not January 1989 as noted. The following is excerpted from the December 1978 issue of *The Hague Chronicle*.

Looking Back



COLONEL MANN REALLY WAS, Part II by Ursula Montbriand

Colonel William d'Alton Mann, in addition to having really been a Colonel in the U.S. Army during the Civil War, had also really been: an hotelkeeper; inventor and purveyor of accoutrement yokes; entrepreneur of one of the first American oil companies; publisher of one of the South's most prominent papers (The Register) while living in Mobile, Ala.; owner of \$100,000 interest in a cotton seed oil refinery - the first and largest in the South; millionaire inventor and manufacturer of Railway sleeping cars; co-founder of a company that operated the Orient Express; inventor of some of the earliest refrigerator cars; owner of slaughter houses in Budapest which shipped meat to cities of western Europe from Hungary; and finally the eccentric rolly polly editor of Town Topics, a "journal of society".

During the years at Town Topics he was often involved in law suits and trials because of its section called "Saunterings" and signed "The Saunterer" in which Col. Mann not only reported the spectacular social "goings on", fabulous parties, weddings, etc. but included numerous items of gossip (always carefully checked for accuracy). He was given the title, "The Man Who Robbed The Robber Barons" after he and his staff were accused of taking bribes and exorbitant advertising fees for suppressing certain scandalous items about the rich and famous or including complementary reports.

(Meanwhile back at the Lake) From April to November every Thursday evening he, his editors, their wives and delegations of fluttering girls left Grand Central Station - making the return trip on Sunday evening. The weekends were spent at Saunterer's Rest, Col. Mann's big summer house "on his private island in Lake George opposite the town of Hague, a sedate resort..."

For the weekly house party the Col. reserved a Pullman car. The journey took 16 hours, including a trip by lake steamer and naphtha launch.

His hospitality was prodigious. All were obliged to participate in fishing, hunting, swimming and canoeing along with enormous meals, scotch & soda with breakfast and frequent cocktails thereafter. It wasn't until the host retired in the evening that the guests could relax and rest.

Colonel Mann loved animals. Often under foot were a pug dog, a black retriever, a setter and a huge Newfoundland at the lake; and six large black cats at the office in New York city.

To keep his guests from relaxing too much, he invented with his friend Harry Watrous, a creature called "The Monster". It was made of wood, had big shiny eyes (insulators from light poles) and was worked by wires and pulleys. It is said one young man - or young husband - canoeing with a young lady jumped overboard, swam to the island and left "the lady" to the mercy of this apparition.

Dotty Henry remembered Grandma Mattie Clifton had said the young man was a husband. They were on their honeymoon. The bride packed her suitcase and left immediately.

Cont'd on page 9, column 2 - Colonel Mann

~SOUNDINGS~

Cont'd from page 8 - Colonel Mann

BORN: A son, Aidan, on January 11, 2008 to Kimberly and Ken Chalk. Aidan is the great granddaughter of Howard Crusey and granddaughter of Bill and Ming Crusey. Aidan and his parents will visit the Crusey family in Hague this August.

BORN: A son, Henry Nelson, on May 15, 2008 to Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand and her husband, Jonathan in Bethesda, MD. Mrs. Gillibrand was still working diligently as our representative the previous day.

DIED: Helen Marie (Nebel) Schoder, 89, of Morristown, NJ on April 5, 2008. Helen and her late husband Erlo were summer residents of Hague since 1932. She is survived by her children Barry and wife Sharon, Warren and wife Margo and Carol Zamrok and husband John. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

DIED: Hannah Mae (Conlon) Cameron, 91, of Hague on April 12, 2008. Hannah was a lifetime resident of Hague. She was employed by Silver Bay for many years and was a former member of the Hague Fire Department and Parent-Teacher Association. Hannah is survived by one daughter, Donna S. Charboneau of Hague, two sisters, Katie M. Hunter and Margaret DelSignore of Hague as well as a grandson, Adam Charboneau. Hannah and her sisters were featured in an article in the December 2006 issue of *The Hague Chronicle*.

DIED: Charlotte Knapp Winslow, Jr., 90, Sykesville, MD on April 18, 2008. Charlotte is survived by her three daughters, Beth Kiker, Emily Goddard, Tricia Funderburk and their husbands, by nine grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. Charlotte and her late husband, Bill, spent summers at Silver Bay for many years.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Helen and Arnold Goetsch of Hague who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 31, 2008.

HAGUE HONOR STUDENTS

Students from Hague continue to be among the top students in the Ticonderoga School District. Over 50% of the students are on the honor roll and 100% of the 6th grade students are on the First Honor Roll and Sentinel Merit Society for the third marking period.

On the honor roll for Ticonderoga High School are:

Grade 12: First Honors – Samantha Abare, Jordon Fuller

Grade 11: First Honors – Jared Best, Brendan Carberry, Molly Ginn

Grade 10: First Honors – Kaley Manning, Jamie Patchett and Second Honors – Jessie Patchett

On both the First Honor Roll and the Sentinel Merit Society at the Middle School are:

Grade 8: Abigail Gurney, Corey King, William Lawrie, Harley Trudeau

Grade 7: Grace Ginn, Bryana Goetsch, Chelsea Kearns, Karney Manning, Jordan McKee

Grade 6: Taylor Coffin, Jeanette Coon, Ty Denno, Sean Lawrie, Kimberly Porter, Rebecca Porter

Bernie Clifton remembered that Mann had inspired Watrous by hauling a huge trout out of the lake, close enough for him to see it but declining to bring it closer saying he wanted to go weigh it. When Harry saw that it was made of wood, he determined to out-do it.

Dr. Cole reported that the Col. had kept Saunterer's Rest on the state-owned island for 20 years by maintaining that it was a temporary structure. He proved it in 1916 when it was moved across the ice to Island Harbor Point.

"He was a loving man". He gave parties for all the children in the neighborhood; picnics for Civil War Veterans; and a Town Topics' Trophy at the annual regatta. Clifton West added that his mother and father were working at Mann's "The Farm" when they were married. "It was customary for city people to give a big reception. The Col. invited the couple, their friends & families and the summer people. They all came and brought presents for the bride and groom." He said, "It was as if they were all one family".

Saunterer's Rest became the Island Harbor House when the original hotel burned. It is now once again a private residence for the Albert Lawrence family.

"The Farm" is the same for Charles Parlin & family and part of Arcady Bay Estates.

(Mrs. Montbriand's chief sources were Andy Logan's "The Man Who Robbed The Robber Barons; and people who remember stories about The Colonel.)

[Researched for *The Hague Chronicle* by the Hague Historical Society.]

THANKS FROM HAGUE CREEK

The Hague Creek Antiques and Cafe has closed and the buildings sold. Diane Farinick and Carol Pittman have enjoyed their "eight wonderful years meeting so many great people."

"We want to thank you all for your valued business and support. It has truly been a great experience running the gift store and cafe. Whether is was decorating our hamlet for the season, doing Holiday in Hague, the Art Show or decorating a float for the parade, everything has been a labor of fun and enjoyment. We send good wishes to all."

4H & CO-OP EXTENSION PROGRAMS

The Cornell University Cooperative Extension Education Center (CCE) in Warrensburg has many events of interest to local youth. The 4-H Fly Fishing Club is currently recruiting new members and on Sunday, May 25th, at 1 pm at the Center on Schroon River Road they will be holding a meeting for potential new members and giving demonstrations on how to cast.

Three day 4-H Wilderness Exploration Programs will be held for ages 9 - 15 this summer. The trips are designed to give youth a basic knowledge of the Adirondack environment including its forest and wildlife and low-impact camping is stressed.

For more information on these programs, call CCE at 518-623-3291 or 668-4881.

Excerpted from a 2008 Property Tax Update
by Richard Gladu, Hague Town Board member

Over the course of the past several years there has been an ever increasing dissatisfaction and outrage with the ever increasing property taxes, which often reach confiscatory levels. I just want to summarize some of the activity which has taken place aimed at addressing this issue.

In September 2004, working with concerned taxpayers in the three counties surrounding Lake George, the Tri-County Committee for Property Tax Relief was formed. Steering committee members include: Richard Gladu - Hague, Warren County, John Whiteley - Ticonderoga, Essex County, and Bert Windle - Putnam, Washington County.

By mid April, 2005, the Town of Hague passed Resolution 44 in favor of school funding reform highlighting the gradual transition to full state funding of education to eliminate the irrational reliance on property values, the elimination of unfunded mandates, and the establishment of property tax relief measures such as the circuit breaker for residents tying the property tax to a percentage of a person's income.

In May 2006, at a meeting in Lake George with Senator Little on property tax reform, the Tri County Committee suggested the establishment of a Blue Ribbon Commission to identify the drivers of this out of control property tax situation and recommend changes to fix this problem.

As a result of a significant grass roots effort from over 52 statewide tax activist groups, now operating as the *New York State Coalition For Property Tax Reform*, Senator Little introduced such a Bill on May 9, 2007, which passed in the Senate but later died in the Assembly.

Recognizing the significance of this issue, Governor Spitzer established the NYS Commission on Property Tax Relief on January 23, 2008. Chairman Tom Suozzi from Nassau County noted that this bipartisan commission is charged with "examining, investigating and recommending the most effective approach to imposing a limit on local school property tax growth in New York State without adversely impacting the ability of school districts to provide a quality education to all students."

The Commission also is charged with developing a package of reforms to address unfunded mandates and other root causes of high property taxes, as well as developing proposals to make the property tax relief system more fair for middle-class property owners.

The Commission has held 8 public meetings statewide, soliciting testimony from many expert witnesses, legislators, public interest groups, tax activists, as well as concerned citizens. These meetings have provided a platform for us to push for the Galef / Little Circuit Breaker Bill - (A1575a / S1053a).

School administrators and school board associations favor a circuit breaker over a property tax cap because with a tax cap - which would limit property tax hikes to a small percentage every year - school districts take huge revenue hits. With a circuit

breaker, schools would continue to receive revenue at the same rate, but the money would come from state income taxes rather than local property taxes.

John Whiteley, who has been selected as the spokesperson for the Tri-County Committee, and has been addressing this problem over the past 15 years, has attended all 8 meetings, providing testimony in support of the Circuit Breaker bill. I have had the opportunity of attending and providing testimony at the Commission meetings in Albany, and Syracuse, as well as the staff meetings in Plattsburgh, and Colonie. The circuit breaker concept has received significant support as a meaningful relief measure while real school funding reform gets defined.

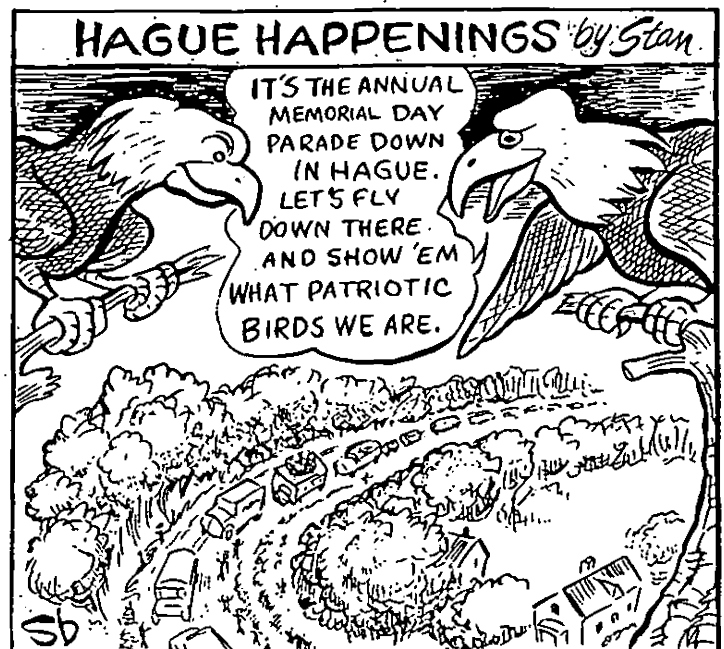
The Commission is scheduled to publish its preliminary report on May 22, 2008. We do expect spending caps, mandate relief and the circuit breaker to be key elements for relief to the middle class taxpayers.

Subsequent to that, we will launch a statewide campaign to communicate with and solicit the support of our Legislators in order to get this Bill through this Executive session.

[For the full text of Mr. Gladu's remarks, go to the Hague Town Homepage <www.townofhague.org> for the May 2008: Property Tax and School Tax Updates.

FESTIVAL GUILD ANNUAL DINNER

The Ticonderoga Festival Guild will hold its Progressive Dinner on June 10, 2008 at the new Best Western. Three seatings are scheduled for 4, 5 and 6 pm. Diners will move from room to room for the various specialty courses. Tickets are \$32 for this annual fundraising event and may be purchased by contacting the Ticonderoga Festival Guild at PO Box 125, Ticonderoga, NY 12883.



by Nancy Wotton Scarzello

The Squirrel Family

By now you have probably seen most of this family as they have made their emergence from their winter homes in trees or burrows under the ground. In this part of the Adirondacks, the family includes tree squirrels (red and gray), flying squirrels, chipmunks and the woodchuck. All squirrels have long chisel-like front teeth, sharp claws and strong legs as well as clusters of sensitive whiskers on their faces and front legs to help them navigate climbing trees or tunneling underground.

The gray squirrel is widespread and abundant in New York State. Here it finds oak and hickory trees that produce food and denning sites where we can see their large leaf nests high in the treetops. The 1 1/2 pound gray squirrel prefers to gather food in the trees, jumping from limb to limb or tree to tree to find nuts and seeds, but will venture onto the ground to forage for those that have dropped. Gray squirrels also come in other colors like the black one we have seen here for several years.

The smaller red squirrel weighs about one-half pound and gets its name from the rusty coloration of its back and tail. These aggressive, energetic squirrels live primarily where evergreens are abundant so the hemlocks and white pines in our forests are where we find them chattering and scolding any intruders (like us) while they feast on cone seeds from their evergreen outpost.

This is also the home to northern flying squirrels. The smallest member of this family, the reddish-brown flying squirrel weighs only about 2 ounces. Seldom seen, this nocturnal squirrel is most active at night feeding heavily on lichens and fungi but can be a regular visitor to bird feeders as they are here in Forest Bay. Flying squirrels do not actually fly. By extending their feet, they cause large flaps of skin along the sides of their bodies to stretch tight, forming a wing-like structure allowing them to glide short distances ~ like from a tree to the bird feeder!

The largest member of the family is the woodchuck, weighing in at 7 to 12 pounds. The long, coarse brown coat covers a chunky body kept close to the ground where it lives in a sometimes-extensive network of underground tunnels and burrows. It prefers farmlands and open fields, but also occurs near homes where they can do great damage to vegetable and flower gardens as I have experienced. Just a fore-warning that one crossed the road in front of me on 9N between Friends Point and Hague headed towards the homes along the lake!

The most easily recognized and abundant member of this family, the Eastern chipmunk can be quite comfortable living close to humans. As young children, my grandfather would set us up in the Adirondack chairs on the lawn where we would sit perfectly still with our hands outstretched holding bread crusts or peanuts. Soon, little

"chippies" would come and eat out of our hands and by summer's end, they'd be quite tame. Weighing about 4 ounces, the chipmunk is distinguished by the two tan and five blackish stripes on its back and the two brownish stripes on each side of its face. Chipmunks spend most of their time on the ground gathering food. Their diet consists of nuts, seeds, berries, mushrooms, insects, snails and occasionally young birds and bird eggs. They cache food in their burrows throughout the year and rely on this stored supply to get them through the winter.

The complex burrow system includes a nesting chamber, a couple of separate "bathrooms", a few food storage chambers, various side pockets connected to the main tunnel where they may move babies when flea infestations become intolerable, and separate escape tunnels with "plunge" holes for quick disappearances when danger lurks above ground. The main entrance is angled into the ground and is not surrounded by obvious mounds of excavated dirt because the chipmunk carries it away in cheek pouches and scatters it away from the burrow. The "plunge" holes are even less obvious for good reason. When a predator (hawk, fox or our family dog) approaches, the chipmunk can scurry to the nearest emergency entrance and disappear down the hole that is designed to go straight down (no angle) into the escape tunnel. The entrance is usually camouflaged with leaves and several are strategically located so that there is always one close by.

This morning I have already been entertained by the antics of a gray squirrel and a chipmunk trying to get to the seed in the bird feeder. But I think a woodchuck in the yard would be much less welcome and entertaining!

WEATHER NOTES

by JoAnne DeFranco

April-May Weather Report

Weather has generally been mild and spring-like with many days in the upper 70's. There has been little rain. We could use a good soaking. Spring flowering bulbs such as tulips, daffodils and hyacinths were especially beautiful and long lasting this year. Flowering trees and shrubs were also abundantly full of blossoms. This could be due to a plentiful supply of water from the snow pack and the fact that the ground did not freeze this winter allowing the plants to take up the water. A third factor was the winter temperatures did not get much past 0 this winter so bud kill was minimal.

After a cold period around April 13 we saw snow showers. Temperatures warmed up to mid 70's April 16-23. Days were warm and sunny. We topped out at 81 on 4/23. This was a great week to get outside and clean up the yard. On April 24-May 4, cooler temperatures prevailed (50's) with clouds and rain showers moving in. Several frost warnings were issued. The week of May 5-11, temperatures were more seasonal in the mid 60's.

During this time the first black flies appeared. As of May 14th the black flies have increased in numbers and are downright annoying. With the decrease in our resident bat population, it may be a bad season for bugs. Arm yourselves with insect repellent when venturing out especially in the late afternoon hours.

May

- 22 7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals
- 24 MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES (see p. 1)
- 26 Memorial Day Holiday
- 27 noon Senior Luncheon (p. 2)

June

- 5 7 pm Planning Board
- 10 6:30 pm Town Board regular meeting
- 12 Deadlines for Cleanup Day pickup (p. 6)
- 12 11:30 am Sr. Mini-trip to Kings Garden (p. 2)
- 13 - 14 Town Cleanup Days (see page 6)
- 15 Happy Father's Day!
- 19 Next *Hague Chronicle* mailed

ONGOING EVENTS

- 1st Monday: Fire Department (7 pm)
- 2nd Monday: Senior Bus to Glens Falls (8:30 am)
- 3rd Monday: Chamber of Commerce (7 pm)
- 1st & 3rd Tuesday: Mohican Crafters (10 am)
- 3rd Tuesday: Ticonderoga School Board (7 pm)
- 3rd Tuesday: Fish & Game Club (7:30 pm)
- 3rd Tuesday: Sno-goers
- 4th Wednesday: Extra Helpings Distribution (noon)
- 3rd Thursday: Carillon Garden Club (11 am)
- 1st Friday: Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am)

Every Tuesday at 7:30 am - Rotary Club meets
Every Thursday at noon: Kiwanis meets

2008-09 PROPOSED TICONDEROGA SCHOOL BUDGET

EXPENDITURE	2007-08	2008-09	DIFFERENCE
	\$16,233,652	\$16,669,482	+ 2.68%
TAX LEVY	\$8,574,045	\$ 8,943,869	+ 4.31%
STATE AID	\$ 6,267,607	\$ 6,335,613	+ 1.09%

There are a total of 3712 registered voters in the TCS District, (Hague 645, Ticonderoga 3067). Over the past three years the number of voters on the school budget has dropped from 607 (16.4%) to 551 (14.8%).

The vote for this budget took place on May 20, 2008. The results will be published in the next issue of *The Hague Chronicle*.



Shirley Smith, longtime member of the Hague Volunteer Fire Department, was the guest of honor at a HVFD dinner and was presented with a plaque by President Ray Mury.

photo courtesy Linda Mury

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Wednesday:
9 am to 4 pm

Saturday:
9 am to 4 pm

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