



## *The Guide*

*Town of Duane Newsletter*  
*May 2015*  
*Vol. 7 No.2*

### **We Did It !!**

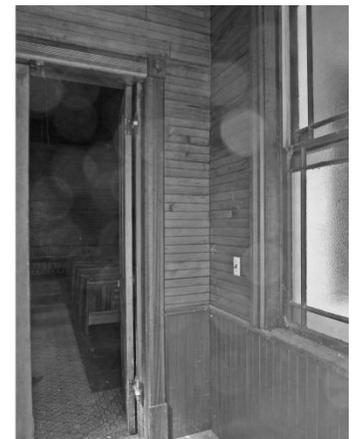
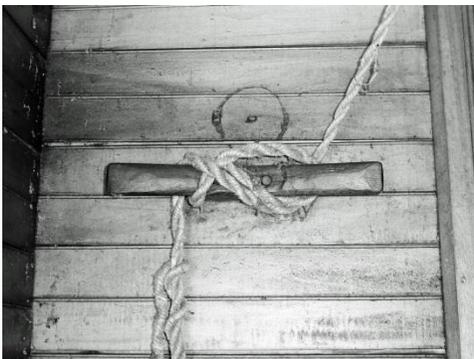
In the last edition of *The Guide* I wrote an article explaining how the Town Board, with the help of John Carr from Blue Mountain Engineering, had plans to apply for a DEC grant. The funds would be used to make needed repairs to the Methodist Episcopal Church in the center of town. On April 15<sup>th</sup>, at a meeting held in Lake Placid, it was announced that the Town of Duane had received \$74,029 in grant monies. The church was built in 1884 and the bell tower has shown signs of leaning as a result of the aging foundation. This grant money will help to insure the structural stability of the church for future generations.

The Town Board during recent meetings has discussed various ways in which the church could possibly be used. It is their desire to see the church become more than a visual site we frequently drive by. In order to achieve this goal they seek community input. With this in mind, I have decided I would try to bring the church to you through the newsletter. Enjoy the tour!

Its May 7<sup>th</sup>, the sun is shining brightly and I am about to enter the First Methodist Episcopal Church for the first time. The church was built in 1883. That would make the church 132 years old. As I approach the steps leading up to the double doors I wonder about all the community members who entered this church. I think about the various events that the church was used for and how people might have been dressed.

Upon entering the two outside doors I find myself standing in a small vestibule. Straight ahead are two wooden doors leading into the church. To my right and left are two multi-colored stained glass windows. I pause and absorb the beauty of the sunlight as it passes through each window. To my left on the wall is mounted a wooden tie down with a rope wrapped around it. It leads up to the bell tower and was once used to ring the bell

now located outside the church. I would guess it was every kids dream to ring that bell! As I study the wood trim work around the door and the extensive use of wainscoting I feel I just stepped back in time.



*Continued on next page:*



As I walk through the double doors into the church the first thing that catches my attention is the sunlight coming through the stained glass windows on my left. Then I am struck by the fact that all walls and ceiling are finished in wainscoting. The pews are made of wood and finished with shellac.

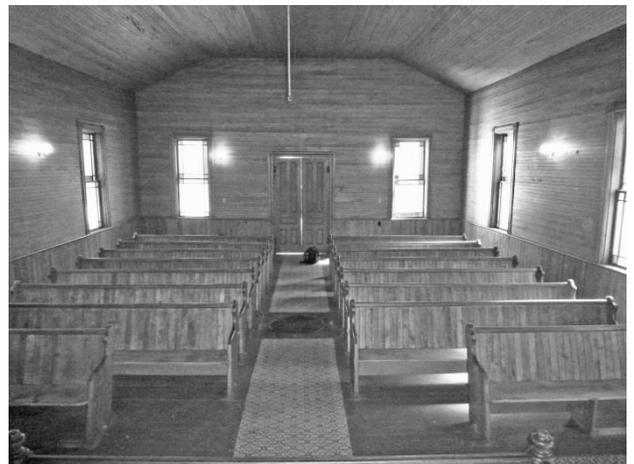
As I walk towards the front of the church I notice the lack of any religious symbols on the walls. My guess is back in those days many services in rural areas were non-denominational. To my right is a very old piano and straight ahead is a raised pulpit enclosed with a wooden railing.



The piano with its ornate design is none like I have ever seen. I wonder when it was last played and by whom. On several wall locations you will see very ornate cast iron cover plates for the heating system.

Standing on the pulpit I reflect on the many services that have been held in this church over the years. You can almost see the parishioners standing with their prayer books in hand.

*If this little tour has spiked your interest in the church Amy Brockway will have the church open June 13<sup>th</sup> from 9-4 as part of our Garage Sale Days.*



## From the Desk of Duane Town Supervisor:

Dear fellow Duane residents,

I think that it's time to correct some misconceptions regarding DeBar Lodge.

The Town of Duane is not trying to buy the lodge. We would however like to receive it as a gift from the state. If this should happen, our plan is to sell the property as soon as possible to an entity that will operate it as an (authentic) Adirondack Lodge, rooms, drinks, meals, tall stories around the fireplace, etc. This sale would carry with it several restrictions. To wit: free public access to Debar Pond, a boat launch built for public use, dedicated public parking and access to and use of trails now existing, or built in the future. There will be other restrictions as well, both to adhere to rules pertaining to Historic Sites, and to keep the building and grounds as close as possible to what now exists, with exceptions necessary for operation of business.

This plan opens up Debar Pond and the immediate area to the public, puts the property back on the tax rolls, and will, in all probability create some jobs. This scenario holds true if the State decides to sell to a private entity, as has happened in the past.

On the other hand, if nothing is done, and the State can find no use for the building it becomes a non-essential/non-conforming structure and will be razed or burned, and the road (driveway) will be gated at the intersection with Cty Rt.26.

This building stands right in line with the history of our town, going back to the original structure and the long history of Hops production in the town. In my opinion this building is far too valuable in both historic and monetary sense to let this happen. If you share this opinion, please write to Janet Duprey, Betty Little, Dan Stec, your County Legislators, and anybody else that you think can help.

If you have interest or questions, please call me anytime at 483-4768. If no answer, I'll return every message. Also, feel free to write me with ideas, comments, etc.

Thanks and have a nice summer season.

*Ned*



## A Plan to Use and Explore the Adirondacks:

My vision of a way to actually see, explore and BE a part of our great Adirondack Park consists of a network of trails suitable for low impact use by motorized vehicles, specifically ATVs and Snowmobiles. I see point to point trails that wander around, using existing but unused fire roads, logging roads, skid trails and the remnants of roads and trails long ago established by DEC for personnel use.

These point to point trails are the backbone of the system and they will be the only areas to be used by motorized vehicles. These roads/trails will have "wide-outs" as jumping off spots to park the vehicle and continue on. A wide-out could for instance lead you to a working beaver pond, where with a lot of patience you might be able to watch these wildlife engineers at work. Or carry a fish pole and try your luck in beaver's back yard. The Idea being to keep the disturbance of the vehicle away from a sensitive area, enjoy it on foot. Maybe a short walk will bring you to a particularly nice view, just sit, let your eyes wander; maybe have a sandwich (take the wrapper out with you). Same thing applies to trails on the taller mountains. It's tough especially for older folks to make these climbs, but if your ATV could take you part way, the rest would be doable. Now you have the chance to see firsthand what you might otherwise see only on the pages of Adirondack Life.

This is not a very difficult plan to handle. The infrastructure is all basically in place, rules and regulations made over the years by the DEC to keep people out of the woods can be changed to more reasonable levels and "Let the people enjoy their forest"—after all, we're paying for them.

The DEC will need more help, and that's a good thing—Jobs, Jobs, Jobs. They will also need money—as always—money. Here's where political savvy comes in. Let's get talking to the members and explain the benefits. Some political help will surely be needed to work on those rules and regulations changes but anything can be done if we set our minds to it.

Just a secondary thought here. There is already a similar recreational area available. Go South west from the Saranac Lake area, and you are in the midst of a huge boating complex complete with maps, trails from the waters' edge, locks for convenience sake, and any number of portages have been cut and there are several campsites available. Also worth mentioning here is that the small boats, canoes and kayaks use these facilities and pay no registration fees, whereas ATV'ers and Snowmobilers pay registration and insurance fees.

If you'll just take a few minutes and think about this plan, covering a few thousand acres (out of six million plus). Roughly north of Saranac Lake to the northern Blue Line boundary and containing parts of Towns of Bellmont, Duane, Franklin, Brighton, Harriestown, Santa Clara, and Waverly. Look at tourist attractions. What there is, is a lot of what might be called "normal" forest, rivers and streams, low hills and high ones, swamps and meadows, and maybe if one looked hard enough a spot or two that might be considered "Primitive". To my way of thinking, there is really no possible reason to keep these lands more or less inviolate. Let's make this area available to the people who pay for it.

Thanks for your consideration.

*Ned*

## **Highlights from Town Board Meetings**

### **February 18th meeting:**

*Absent:* None

Town Supervisor, Ned Lemieux Sr., reported that Horseshoe Pond Association is now on the Duane Town Website.

The board discussed and voted on a resolution to purchase a new plow truck. The resolution passed allowing the Highway Superintendent to enter into a purchase agreement for the purchase of a new plow truck.

Supervisor reported that he had a meeting pending with the NYS DEC to discuss a possible trail system.

### **March 18th meeting:**

*Absent:* Rita Gordon

Supervisor LeMieux and Highway Superintendent LeMieux discussed with the board the Emergency Service authorization required from the APA. This would give the APA three days to authorize highway and other necessary repairs in the event of an emergency. Highway Superintendent LeMieux's contention is that there are times when we may not have three days to wait for approval. LeMieux plans to discuss the issue at the next Highway Supervisor's Meeting and report back.

Governor Cuomo has reportedly pledged funds to fight invasive species in our waterways. The board passed a motion to pursue stations to clean, drain & dry boats at every boat launch in Duane.

Supervisor LeMieux reported the highlights from his recent meeting with Robert Stegemann from the DEC. They discussed a trail system and the feasibility of a boat launch at the Deer River Flow. The boat launch is reportedly a potential "go".

### **April 15th meeting:**

*Absent:* Rita Gordon and Carmella Teeple

Earlier in the day Supervisor LeMieux attend a meeting in Lake Placid where the Town of Duane was awarded a grant of \$74,029. The money will be used to make repairs to the church.

LeMieux asked permission from the board to begin discussions with John Carr as we enter the construction phase.

Local resident, Amy Brockway, spoke to the potential use of the church for various events.

### **May 20th meeting:**

*Absent:* None

The Equalization Rate for the Town of Duane will be 88%, this is an increase from last year's rate of 85%.

The proposed boat launch for Deer River Flow may not be constructed until next year.

It was recently reported in the local newspaper that the DEC is planning to build a boat launch in Meacham Lake Campground. After a lengthy discussion the board expressed several concerns with this proposal. A Resolution was passed opposing the current project until further considerations are explored.

## Dates of Upcoming Meetings and Events

June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> – Town Wide Garage Sale

June 17th - Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

July 15th - Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

August 19th - Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

September 16th - Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

Food Pantry, located at Duane Fire Station remaining schedule for 2015: June 25<sup>th</sup>, July 23<sup>rd</sup>

August 20<sup>th</sup>, September 24<sup>th</sup>, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, November 19th and December 17<sup>th</sup>. For information on how to register for food pantry services, please contact Gloria Gori at 483-4369.

Next issue of *The Guide* to be mailed out at the end of September 2015.

Any suggestions or questions concerning *The Guide* should be directed to Gary Cring (483-2611).

### Town Wide Garage Sale: June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

Every other year the Duane Angels sponsor a town wide garage sale. This year the garage sale will be held on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Individuals may donate items to the Duane Angels or conduct their own garage sale. Items donated to the Duane Angels will be sold at the Fire Station. All proceeds will go to the Duane Fire Department. Monies from previous garage sales have been used to purchase emergency equipment and protective gear. The town wide garage sale will be advertised and maps will be available showing residents having a garage sale. Maps will be free and can only be obtained at the Duane Fire Station. In addition to the garage sale, the Duane Angels will sponsor a bake sale and sell hot dogs and burgers. Raffle tickets will also be available for donated items. For additional information concerning the garage sale please contact Pam LeMieux at 483-4885.

As part of the garage sale weekend the Methodist Church will be open for viewing providing construction has not begun. Please take a short walk across the street from the firehouse and allow Amy Brockway to provide you with a short tour of the building. The church will only be open for viewing on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 4pm.