



THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

Published Monthly Since 1972
Volume 48 Number 10

www.thehaguechronicle.org

Hague, New York 12836
Oct 2019

CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR OFFICE IN HAGUE IN 2019

SUPERVISOR

(2-year term) (vote for one)

- Republican (incumbent): Edna Frasier
- Independent: Joshua Patchett

TOWN BOARD

(4-year term) (vote for 2)

- Republican: Steve Ramant
- Republican: Jack Bast

TOWN CLERK

(4-year term) (vote for 1)

Independent: Melissa Patchett

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

(4-year term) (vote for 1)

- Republican: Donald Smith
- (Write-in) Curt Fenimore

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Edna Frasier (Republican)



Yes, I am running for Supervisor. Why? Not because I want the title but because I work hard for our Town, spending endless hours in all levels of meetings to keep abreast of the issues as they relate to our Town &

County. Meetings that help us maintain our luxury of NO town tax. We are receiving grants and are working on a park improvement plan, all of which I hope to see completed.

Joshua Patchett (Independent)



My name is Joshua Patchett and I am running for Town Supervisor because I care about our community and the future of our town.

As a member of the Town Board, I have learned a lot and have seen a number of areas where we can improve – including communication and transparency. My objective is to bring the people's voices back into our decision-making process. Actively seeking out citizens' opinions, concerns and suggestions will provide a better foundation for making good decisions.

Let us never forget where we come from or who we are. Maintaining town traditions and being service-oriented embody my core beliefs. I also feel strongly that we need to protect our crown jewel – Lake George – and ensure that we preserve it for future generations.

We have a great community filled with hardworking, compassionate people who care about each other. I pledge to safeguard and strengthen this sense of community and to lead as a public servant. For these reasons, I humbly ask for your vote for Hague Town Supervisor on November 5.

Steve Ramant (Republican)

I'm Steve Ramant and have PROUDLY served YOU for 8 years as Your Councilman.



Here's some two terms highlights:

- Kept Hague citizens abreast of town functions & events with 350+ on my email lists
- Personally tagged 225+ winter storage boats prior LGPC mandatory inspections so citizens could quickly launch
- Attended all Salt Summits to understand and work w/Highway staff to reduce road salt into Lake
- Started campaign to repave RT9N thru Glens Falls Post Star & Albany TV

(Continued on page 2)

COUNTY AND TOWN EARN WINTER MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

Warren County and the Town of Hague have earned the Sustainable Winter Management (SWiM®) Program certification for reducing the use of road salt and its runoff into Lake George and other waterways, while maintaining safe driving conditions.

The certifications were presented on Thursday, October 3, 2019 at the Adirondack Champlain Regional Salt Summit, organized by The FUND for Lake George, the Lake George Waterkeeper, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, AdkAction, and the Ausable River Association.

The SWiM® certification was developed and is administered by winter management consulting firm WIT

Advisers, LLC, of Delanson, NY. In 2018, the Town of Lake George became the first municipality in North America to earn the certification.

Warren County and the Town of Hague earned their SWiM® certifications based on their proven abilities to use real-time data and photographic evidence to monitor,

(Continued on page 3)

SCHOOLS CLOSED FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

There will be no school for Ticonderoga Central School District students on Friday, November 1, 2019. There will be staff development activities that day.



If you have questions, call John Donohue at 518-585-7442, ext. 1135. ❑

BOY SCOUT AUCTION

The Hague Boy Scouts are having an auction in November and they are looking for donations now. They can accept furniture, tools, antiques, household items, and so forth.



Anyone wishing to donate should contact Bonnie Martucci at 518-543-3162. ❑

HVFD

by Meg Haskell

In September, we had 17 fire calls and drills and nine EMS calls using 134 volunteer hours, with one marine call.

We will be holding the Election Day Luncheon on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at the community center. So come vote and have lunch!

As the temperatures begin to drop, please get your chimneys cleaned and change the batteries in your smoke detectors. ❑

CANDIDATES

(Continued from page 1)

"Pothole Express", DOT moved quickly, now it's a safe road for all

- Organized invasive species meetings in Hague for all to understand terrestrial & aquatic threats to our environment
- Spearheaded Local Town Supervisors getting DEC to secure last three open launches on Lake and insure complete Lake Protection
- Working to keep Hague WITHOUT Town Tax and stay under 2% State Budget cap each year
- For additional highlights email to haguesteve@msn.com
- EXPERIENCE MATTERS!!!

I ask for your vote on November 5th so I can continue to work each day for YOU! Thanks, Steve Ramant

John A. (Jack) Bast (Republican)



I'm not a politician! However, when the late great Mike Cherubini regrettably left us last year, he left a huge hole. I volunteered and was appointed to fill Mike's unexpired term.

I have graduate college education and many years of corporate business experience; I'm still actively employed. My wife Dorothy and I have resided full-time in Hague since 2004, and I've served on the Arcady Board of Directors. Working with Hague's very capable and

dedicated staff this past year, I've been able to apply my background and experience in helping to manage this significant business, i.e., the Town of Hague.

I've learned enough to believe I can contribute and to get better at serving – and I want to! I will continue to apply strong Conservative Republican principles and good financial business management practices to maintain and grow Hague's livelihood.

Melissa Patchett (Independent)



For those who I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, I am Melissa Patchett and I am running for Town Clerk. I am a registered Independent and do not view myself as a politician, but rather

as a public servant. As a Lake George native, I have heartfelt ties to the lake and surrounding communities. I moved to Hague about four and a half years ago, as it is my husband Joshua's hometown, and we intend to build our lives in this beautiful Adirondack community.

In January, I became Deputy under the previous Town Clerk and in the springtime, I was appointed to fill the role for the remainder of this year.

I have since joined several networking associations and am enthusiastic to continue learning. My goals are to study and uphold the laws, strive for exemplary records management and

to make information more easily accessible to the public in a timely manner.

I am excited for the future of Hague and with your support I look forward to continuing to serve you!

Donald Smith (Republican)



Serving the people and the town of Hague prior to 1980 with 39 + years of experience. 12 of those years serving as your Highway Superintendent.

Hands on experience working on budgets, road maintenance, paving, snow removal, storm damage & recovery working with County and State. My goal is to continue on with preventative road maintenance, storm water erosion efforts on trying to help keep our Queen, roadways & people safe with new innovative technologies.

Curt Fenimore (Write-in)



After speaking with several Hague residents I've decided to run for high way supervisor for Hague. The residents I've spoken

to say they are like to keep some old traditions, but are also ready for change, someone they can count on being around when needed. I'm hoping to break the cycle and with the help of the residents we can make this happen. ❑

COUNTY AND TOWN EARN WINTER MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

(Continued from page 1)

measure, self-assess, and adjust their winter road maintenance procedures to keep the roads as clear as possible, while minimizing the use of salt.

Among the best practice techniques used by the county and town are: applying pre-coatings of liquid brine on roads in advance of winter storms to minimize ice buildup; using special “live edge plows” to remove snow closer to the road surface; and equipping their plow trucks with technologies that calibrate and track road salt application and monitor road conditions.

Eric Siy, executive director of The FUND for Lake George, said, “Thanks in large part to the leadership and investment of Warren County and the Town of Hague, and the diligent work of their highway departments, the Lake George Salt Reduction Initiative has become a national model for protecting waterways against the consequences of road salt runoff. The success these municipalities are having is also helping inspire others from both the public and private sectors to step forward and learn how they can play a role, as evidenced by the tremendous attendance at this year’s Summit.”



(From left) Eric Siy of The FUND for Lake George, Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky, Rick Myers, Steve Ramant, Matt Coffin, Tim Fiallo, Don Smith, Dan Steitz and Ernie Trudeau, Phill Sexton of WIT Advisers, administrator of the SWIM® Program, and Raqib Omer of winter management software solutions provider Viaesys. (Photo by Melissa Blackall)

Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky said, “These certifications are a testament to the dedication of the county and town plow truck operators who have really embraced this initiative and are proud of the direct role they play in keeping road salt out of Lake George, while making sure our roads remain safe for driving. Their ability to self-assess their performance and strive for continuous improvement will make a big difference in the long-term health of the lake.”

Hague Supervisor Edna Frasier said, “I am extremely proud of our Highway Department and how diligently they have worked to earn this certification. Deputy Highway Superintendent Matt Coffin has spearheaded our efforts and inspired our team to make salt-reduction a priority, while keeping our roads safe. It’s wonderful to know that we are doing our part to protect the lake.”

SUCCESSFUL LGLC RACE FOR THE LAKE

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) hosted its 3rd annual Amy’s Adventure Race for the Lake at Amy’s Park in Bolton on Saturday, September 28, 2019. There were 52 competitors, ranging in age from 23 to 72, and another 20 Next Generation (NextGen) committee members and volunteers.

The overall winner, Volker Burkowski (who was the defending 2018 champion) shaved one minute off his time and finished the rugged 4.5-mile race in 36 minutes and 8 seconds.

The female winner this year was Kaley Bell, a third-time Amy’s racer, who finished the race in 41 minutes and 5 seconds. The remaining top finishers

were Alex James, Jonathan Peffley, AnnMary Baker, and Beth Pietrangelo, who all finished the race in under 47 minutes. A complete list of race results can be seen at <https://www.underdogtiming.com/2019-race-results>.

Created to bring attention to the LGLC’s mission of protecting the land that protects the lake, the race also directly demonstrates the holistic benefits of conserving natural resources, while providing recreational opportunities.

This year’s race proceeds, which grossed over \$4,000, will all go toward advancing the Bolton Recreational Hub Plan, for which the committee has been fundraising throughout the year. Photos from the event, as well as



the complete list of competitors and their times, can be seen on the LGLC’s page on Facebook, @HikeLakeGeorge.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 9/26/2019

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

STRAUBEL (23.10-1-20) 34 Spring Lane (TRIR)

The owners would like to replace a deteriorating retaining wall with a new lower wall and install a new retaining wall within 50-foot of the mean high water mark of the lake. The board approved 5-1 (Navitsky), with the condition that construction includes all possible filtering of drainage.

POWELL (45.5-1-13) 28 Overbrook Road (Hamlet)

The applicants would like to replace a hedge of invasive species with a six-foot-high solid fence. If approved, the fence would sit six inches from their property line. The application was deemed complete and a site visit will be held. ❑

PLANNING BOARD - 10/3/2019

Chairman Dick Frasier, Vice-Chair Pam Peterson, and Board Members Dan Belden, Martin Fitzgerald II, Judy Gourley, and Meg Haskell were present. There is one vacancy.

REGIMBALD (25.2-1-1-17) 9565 Graphite Mountain Road (OCI)

The applicant is applying for a two-lot subdivision of a 4.15-acre parcel. If approved, Lot One will consist of 1.63 acres and Lot Two will consist of 2.52 acres. On June 28, 2018, the ZBA granted a variance for lots less than the required 2.9 acres, with the condition that any development on Lot Two would require obtaining a Stormwater Permit. The application was deemed complete. A site visit was deemed unnecessary. A public hearing will be held at the next meeting.

POWELL (45.5-1-13) 28 Overbrook Road (Hamlet)

The applicants would like to replace a hedge of invasive species with a six-foot-high solid fence. If approved, the fence will sit six inches from their property line. The board gave a positive referral to the ZBA.

JORDAN (25.4-1-33) 26 Sunset Hill Road (TRI)

The applicant is requesting a modification to an existing Site Plan Approval (10-6-16) to store an additional 25 boats on his property.

The required fence has been installed to meet this conditional approval: "To assure that no additional sprawl onto the abutting neighbor's property, the applicant must install a four-foot high fencing along the perimeter of his property prior to placing boats and/or boat trailers on parcel #25.4-1-33." The board unanimously approved the request. ❑

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD - 10/8/2019 - 5 PM

This meeting was held to discuss sewer law enforcement. Supervisor Edna Frasier and Board Members Jack Bast, Martin Fitzgerald, Josh Patchett, and Steve Ramant were present. Town Attorney John Silvestri and Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) Cathy Clark were also present.

Town law requires that all properties within the sewer districts be connected. The board discussed individual properties that have not connected. Several residents have appealed for more time to connect. (See the September 2019 issue of *The Hague Chronicle* for details.)

The board declared that all appeals be treated in a uniform, consistent and fair manner, with fact-based determinations. ZEO Clark discussed considerations for those who are working toward compliance but are facing financial hardship. Mr. Silvestri stated that the ZEO has broad discretion and has not been arbitrary. He also stated that there is nothing in the Town Sewer Law that sets deadlines for sending out the enforcement notices about non-compliance and no mention of financial hardship requirements. Mr. Silvestri also affirmed that there is confusion about the responsibilities of the ZEO in terms of enforcement.

The board requested that a meeting be set up between Board Member Jack Bast, Attorney Silvestri, and ZEO Clark to further define the board's process for enforcement. The board then went into executive session. ❑

TOWN BOARD - 10/8/2019 - 6 PM



All of the town board members came out of the executive session and were present when the regular meeting was opened. There was no report on that executive session (see Special Meeting report above), meaning that no decisions were made and no votes were taken.

A moment of silence was held for Thomas Behr, Bruce Ergood, Imre Szabo, and Don Carey.

Pam Peterson and Matthew Reilly (on behalf of Elizabeth Lee) both presented appeals for a time extension for their sewer hook-up due to extreme hardship due to the rock ledge on their property. Tony DeFranco stated that he has determined both systems are functioning properly. The board granted both a five-year extension for compliance (12/31/2024) (unless their systems fail before that point) and required a certified inspection report be submitted at the end of the period.

Peter Foster presented an appeal, based on financial hardship. Mr. DeFranco stated his inspection indicated that the system is not adequate for the usage, but as long as it is pumped regularly, it seems to be functioning. The

(Continued on page 5)

TRAFFIC REROUTED AT HOSPITAL IN TICONDEROGA

The University of Vermont Health Network - Elizabethtown Community Hospital announced access to its Ticonderoga Campus will be via Route 9N while road construction, which is slated for completion by December, is underway.

Access to the Ticonderoga Campus emergency department, physical therapy, imaging and outpatient clinics, Elderwood Village, and Moses Circle Senior Apartments is available from Route 9N. Parking for the hospital is available at the emergency department entrance.

At the completion of the project, a new entrance via Wicker Street and new sidewalks, lighting, and landscaping will improve pedestrian access and traffic flow around the campus. ▣

CARILLON GARDEN CLUB CHRISTMAS WREATHS

The Carillon Garden Club will sell locally-made balsam Christmas wreaths and kissing balls again this year. This has been a fundraiser for the club for more than 20 years and enables it to beautify areas in Ticonderoga and Hague. Orders are now being taken and will continue until October 31, 2019. Repeat and new orders are sincerely appreciated.

The "Pine and Wine" Workshop will be held on Friday and Saturday evenings, November 22nd and 23rd, when wreaths will be decorated by participants. Orders for wreaths for that event should also be ordered now.

Wreaths will be available in one size only. A 12" base will measure approximately 20 - 22" when completed. Wreaths may be purchased plain for \$20 each, with a bow for \$22, or decorated with pinecones, berries, and bows for \$25. Bows and berries come in red or burgundy. Decorated kissing balls are \$30 each or \$25 for a plain one.

Items may be picked up from the community center on Wednesday,

TOWN BOARD - 10/8/2019

(Continued from page 4)

board tabled the appeal until January, so that the board can further define its process for enforcement (see Special Meeting report above).

Sheri DeLarm appealed for an extension to allow Mr. DeFranco to inspect the current system. ZEO Clark stated DeLarm's letter of appeal was for a financial hardship and the hardship of a rock ledge. Appeal tabled until January.

Barbara Rottier, on behalf of Joan Clark, asked for a two-year extension based on financial hardship. She stated that Ms. Clark has acted in good faith and taken initial steps to be compliant. The system was inspected and there was no sign of failure. The board approved a one-year extension (12/31/2020).

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Assessor/Justice: Assessor submitted a report to the board.

Highway: Ramant reported the town won the SWIM Award for reducing salt usage on the roads. (See separate article on page one). Timothy Fiallo from the Highway Department stated the department will continue working toward a better understanding of the science behind road maintenance.

Museum/Historian: Ginger Kuenzel reported on behalf of the Hague Historical Society (HHS). The HHS board is creating a committee to make recommendations about the Old Hague Cemetery. It is also working on its seventh historical marker, which will spotlight the Lake George Monster. It is also planning part two of the Hague School exhibit in the museum. Work on the Swede Mountain fire tower and hiking trail is progressing.

Town Park/ Beautification: Steve Ramant reported the town boat launch will close Thursday, October 24th and water will be turned off in the rest rooms on Wednesday, October 30th.

The board approved an agreement with Warren County for 2020 road maintenance and a contract with the Warren County Youth Bureau. ▣

November 20th from 9 am to 4 pm or on Thursday, the 21st from 9 am to 1 pm, or at the Ticonderoga Elks Lodge during the workshops on Friday, November 22nd or Saturday, November 23rd from 7 - 9 pm.

The club meets the third Thursday of the month at the community center, April - December, with programs for gardeners and nature lovers. The public is welcome. For more information, call Co-President Ann Westervelt at 518-585-6548 or



Participants in last year's workshop

Membership Chairperson, Claire Best at 518-543-6765.

For more information or to place an order, call Wreath Chairperson, Sharon Lonergan at 518-585-4477, Judy Walker at 518-984-0088, or any club member. ▣

SOUNDINGS

BORN: Emerson “Emmy” Grace Bryant, on August 23, 2019, to Evan and Katie Bryant of Davenport, FL and Hague. She is the granddaughter of Lynn and Linda McConahy of Davenport, FL and Kim and Doug Bryant of Pine Cove, Hague and Nellysford, VA.



The Hague Chronicle is happy to publish the important happenings in the lives of our readers. Please send announcements of births, marriages, graduations, awards, or deaths to editor@thehaguechronicle.org and we'll publish them as space permits. Thank you.

HALLOWEENFEST

HalloweenFest will take place in Ticonderoga Friday, October 25 – Thursday, October 31, 2019, with events that will be hosted by various businesses and organizations:

Friday, October 25th:

5 – 8 pm: Halloween Mini Golf – Five Nations Golf

Saturday, October 26th:

11 am: Childrens' Program - Black Watch Memorial Library

1 pm: Professor Paddy-Whack AmuseCycle Show – Ticonderoga Community Building

6:30 – 8:30 pm: Pumpkin Walk and Campfire – LaChute River Trail

7 – 10 pm: Maze By Moonlight – Fort Ticonderoga

8 pm: Boos and Brews Costume Party (adults 21 and over) – Maddens Pub

Sunday, October 27th:

5:30 – 8 pm: Dinner and a Halloween movie – Olive's Ti Pi. Call for reservations.

Monday, October 28th:

6:30 – 8:30 pm – Glow Disc Golf - Two Waters Disc Golf Course

Tuesday, October 29th:

3:15 – 4:30 pm: Pumpkin Carving and Painting – NCCC Ticonderoga. Call 518-891-2915, Ext. 2203 to pre-register.

Thursday, October 31st:

3 – 5 pm: Trick or Treating - Downtown Ticonderoga. Montcalm Street will be closed from Sunshine Laundry to 1888 Building/Ti Heritage Museum.

3 – 5 pm: Mobile Virtual Reality Experience – Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC)

3 – 5 pm: Great Pumpkin Trick or Treat Hallway - NCCC

For more information, call TACC at 518-585-6619 or visit www.ticonderogany.com, www.timainstreet.org, or go to the TACC or TMSP Facebook pages.

HALLOWEEN MOVIE

On Saturday October 19, 2019, from 7 – 9 pm, *Goosebumps II* will be shown at the Silver Bay YMCA Teen Center in the Armory Building on Champlain Avenue.



OVERDOSE REVERSAL DRUG AT EMERGENCY ROOM

Free Narcan kits are now available at The University of Vermont Health Network's Ticonderoga Campus. The kits include naloxone, an overdose reversal drug, and will be available upon request to patients with opioid use disorder or to their loved ones.

“Without question or judgment, patients and their concerned family members can come to our emergency departments and get one of these kits free of charge. We want patients living with substance use disorder and their loved ones to be prepared in the event overdose occurs. These kits can help prevent overdose and save lives,” said Dr. David Clauss, emergency department director and chief medical officer.

Emergency department staff provides a brief one-on-one training on how to recognize the signs of overdose and how to administer the naloxone. The kits include nasal spray naloxone, rescue breathing masks, and an educational insert.

“The kits are part of the hospital's effort to address the opioid crisis,” added John Remillard, president of the UVM Health Network - Elizabethtown Community Hospital. He continued, “We are educating staff to ensure we provide a welcoming



environment to those living with substance use disorder and our providers are working to expand access to medication-assisted treatment at our community health centers.”

NATURALLY SPEAKING

by *Connie Smith*

*Where have all the birds gone?
Scientists are worried.
Where have all the birds gone?
Only time will tell.*

I read an alarming newspaper article the other day. Scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology reported that North America has lost nearly three billion birds since 1970. There have also been significant population declines among hundreds of bird species once considered plentiful. This decline is even affecting common birds across all habitats, including backyard birds such as sparrows, warblers, finches, and swallows.

The study reported the causes are primarily habitat loss, free-roaming cats, collisions with glass, toxic pesticides, and insect decline. I was particularly troubled when I read another report by the Wildlife Conservation Society that said, "Several iconic Adirondack birds are in trouble with declines driven by the loss of their wetland habitats, how

connected these wetlands are to one another, and how near they are to human infrastructure."

According to the report's author, the Adirondack Park represents the southern range extent of several species of boreal forest birds in the eastern North America. The habitats of these boreal specialists — cool, wet, sphagnum-draped bogs and swampy woods — are thought to be vulnerable to climate change, particularly in the Adirondacks, where they are more fragmented than in forests to the north. The birds affected are the yellow-bellied flycatcher, Lincoln's sparrow, yellow palm warbler, the black-backed woodpecker, gray jay, olive-sided flycatcher, boreal chickadee, and rusty blackbird. Even if I can't identify the



specific birds, I am concerned about their decline.

The author stated that these birds are very specialized species and have specific habitat needs. She is concerned about the stresses of a warming climate and competition and displacement from more cosmopolitan birds like blue jays, which tend to come along with residential development.

Unfortunately, neither article offered any helpful suggestions for what we can do to relieve the stresses placed upon our birds. Our mere presence in their habitat, along with our modern society, including necessities such as

houses and cars, are putting them at risk. How sad our lives would be without the colorful beauty and pleasing songs of our birds! Let's hope scientists will be able to offer us hope. ▣

WATER QUALITY MATTERS

by *Mike Strutz*

"Take Me Out to the Ballgame," is a song I think of at this time of year, as the major league baseball playoffs and World Series approach. But, it also makes me think of a town that "hit one out of the park" with its approach to water quality protection on its home waters, Otsego Lake. The Village of Cooperstown, home of the Baseball Hall of Fame, recognized the declining water quality in the lake and did something about it by instituting a basin-wide septic system inspection program.

In the 1990's, Otsego Lake, a source of drinking water for Cooperstown, was recognized as having declining water clarity and a lack of oxygen in the deeper areas of the lake. To get in a game, you first need to form a team. By 1994, the five towns in the basin had

“  Dedicated to Protecting the Water Quality of Lake George ”

organized the Otsego Lake Watershed Council to identify the problems and develop solutions. By 1996, they had issued a "State of the Lake Report," identifying nutrient loading as a significant problem. In 1998, the council issued a plan focused on addressing on-site wastewater treatment systems, road maintenance, and agricultural projects. In terms of wastewater, the recommendation was that all these systems should be inspected every five years and at any time a property is transferred and any systems not in good working order should be upgraded.

In order to implement the recommendations, a Watershed Supervisory Committee was formed to manage land and water activities related to water quality and review septic system design. By 2004, laws were passed common to all the towns in the basin, requiring inspection of on-site wastewater treatment systems located within 500' of the shoreline or within 100' of tributary streams.

In 2005, inspections began. 99% of the total of 375 systems were inspected

during the period from 2005 to 2009, with 51% failing to pass. The good news is that 86% of the failed systems were upgraded during the year following their inspection and the progress continues.

It's time for Hague and the other communities in the Lake George Basin to "step up to the plate" and coordinate a comprehensive plan to monitor and, if necessary, upgrade on-site septic systems. Just in Hague alone, there are about 400 properties on the lakeshore and tributaries with their own septic systems. You can help by making sure yours is operating properly (see <https://www.epa.gov/septic/how-care-your-septic-system>) and by letting your elected officials know that you support regular septic inspections.

Need I say it? "PLAY BALL!"

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

ASIAN CLAM SURVEY

2019 marked the eighth year of the lake-wide survey to track the internal spread of invasive Asian Clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) within Lake George. The Lake George Asian Clam Task Force, consisting of agencies, non-profits, and municipal leadership around the lake, was created in 2010 to address this emerging threat.

The Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) conducts this annual survey with a range of volunteers from around the region. Participants spent a combined 200+ hours conducting this survey. The survey work includes sieving (like panning for gold) through all sandy areas throughout the shoreline of Lake George to find any new populations of this invasive mollusk. If any clams are found that appear to possibly be Asian clams, they are brought to the Darrin Freshwater Institute for confirmation.

This year's lake-wide survey was conducted and completed over four days: August 26th, 29th, 30th, and September 5th. The survey identified three new sites of Asian clams:

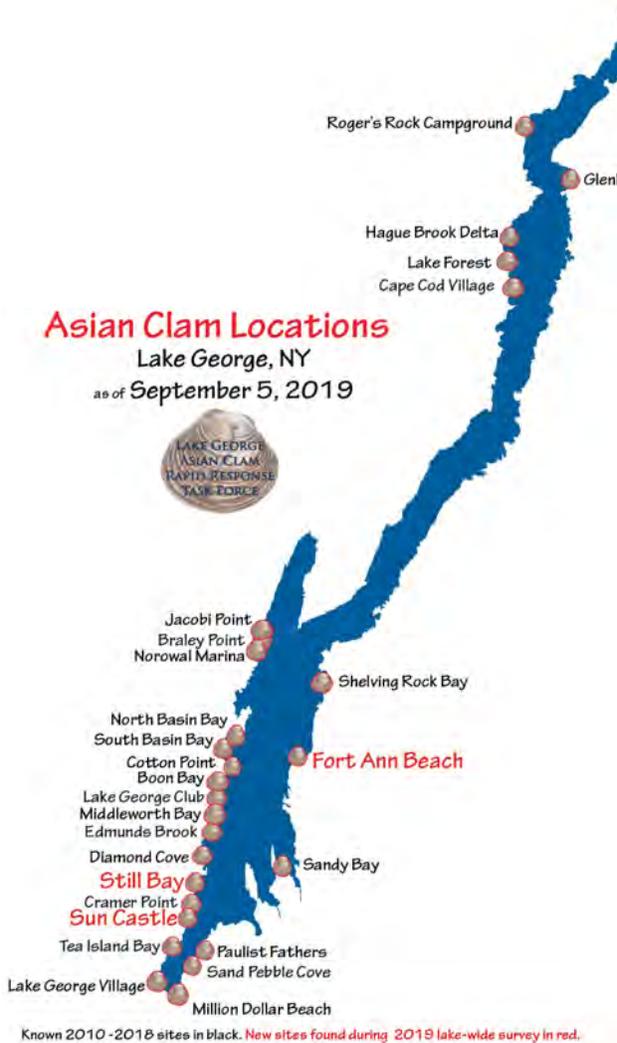
Fort Ann Beach (Fort Ann) – only one clam found out of 100 sieves, clams likely in deeper water

Still Bay Resort (Lake George) – one to three clams found in each sieve

Sun Castle Resort (Lake George) – more than ten clams found in each sieve.

This brings the total number of Asian clam sites to 27 locations throughout the lake, mostly in the southern basin on the more developed western shoreline, which has many sandy areas.

The task force covered the affected lake bottom with "benthic barriers," sandbags, and rebar to eliminate these



populations by lowering the oxygen levels. The benthic barrier control efforts were highly effective (96-100% mortality in most cases). However, if a site did not achieve a 100% mortality rate, the clams rebounded quickly. Even in sites where no clams were found the year after treatment, they were identified in small populations the following year. The re-population of treated sites, according to research from Darrin Freshwater Institute, is likely due to microscopic and buoyant juvenile clams being present outside of the treatment areas. These clams near the treated sites ultimately re-populate those treated sites.

In 2016, after considerable expense, yet ultimately unsuccessful management efforts, the Task Force decided to halt barrier treatments, but to continue research into their biology, potential lake impacts, and potential future treatments, if warranted. Given that Asian clam control and eradication efforts cost upwards of \$80,000 per acre, the cost of treating Asian clam-affected areas lakewide is cost prohibitive and beyond the current ability to successfully manage through currently-known methods.

Combining all of the known area of lake-bottom that contains the invasive Asian clam in Lake George as of this report, the total area affected exceeds 150 acres.

From a positive perspective, as of this time, there have not been any identified significant recreational or environmental impacts of this species in the lake, although populations have been expanding and the future remains unclear. A concern from a biological perspective is that the clams most adapted to cold weather conditions are the ones surviving each year and they are the ones which reproduce the next generation of clams, which will also likely be cold tolerant. After several generations, it is likely that the clams in Lake George will be more cold tolerant and thus more likely to survive the cold winters, leading to increased populations.

Research is ongoing at the RPI's Darrin Freshwater Institute and the LGPC task force will continue to monitor long-term trends with this invasive species. ▣

LOOKING BACK

by Ginger Henry Kuenzel

GHOSTS IN THEM THAR HILLS



This report was compiled from documents I received from Sally Rypkema, Hague Town Historian. These credit, in part, former Town Historian Clifton West, who also spoke with Split Rock Road residents Michele Denno (Gautreau), Charles Foote, and Florence (Barnett) Bongren.

The spooky, scary season of Halloween is just around the corner, as are the witches, goblins, and other eerie creatures who come out to haunt us. It's a fitting time to look back at some of the ghostly – or should we say ghastly – events of yesteryear in Hague.

Let's travel back in time to the 1920s, when the Frank LaDue family – consisting of Frank, his wife, Averill, two children, and Averill's father, Alvah – lived at the top of Split Rock Road. Or, at least they all lived there until the fateful day when their toddler daughter disappeared. As the story goes, Averill reported that the child had wandered off, hinting that she might have been spirited away by a bear. State troopers were called in and a search was conducted, aided by dogs and volunteers from town. Neighbors reported having seen considerable amounts of smoke – with a noxious odor – billowing from the chimney earlier in the day. As Clifton West, former Hague Town Historian, recalls, "All members of the family were under suspicion because of their indifferent attitude and their lack of cooperation." Here's where it gets really strange. The only one in the family to have shown any signs of grief or even concern was the father, Frank. A veteran of World War I, he was said to have suffered from shell shock, or what we today know as PTSD, though neighbors reported that he appeared to be quite normal until this tragedy occurred. Whatever the facts – or lack thereof – Frank was soon committed to an institution

downstate, where he remained until the end of his days. Was he, like his small daughter, a victim in this case? It is said that Averill was known for child abuse and also wanted to be rid of her husband in order to get his pension. We will never know the facts because Alvah and Averill took the true story to their graves. One thing is for certain, however. A gravestone at the top of Split Rock Road marks the grave of the unfortunate little girl.

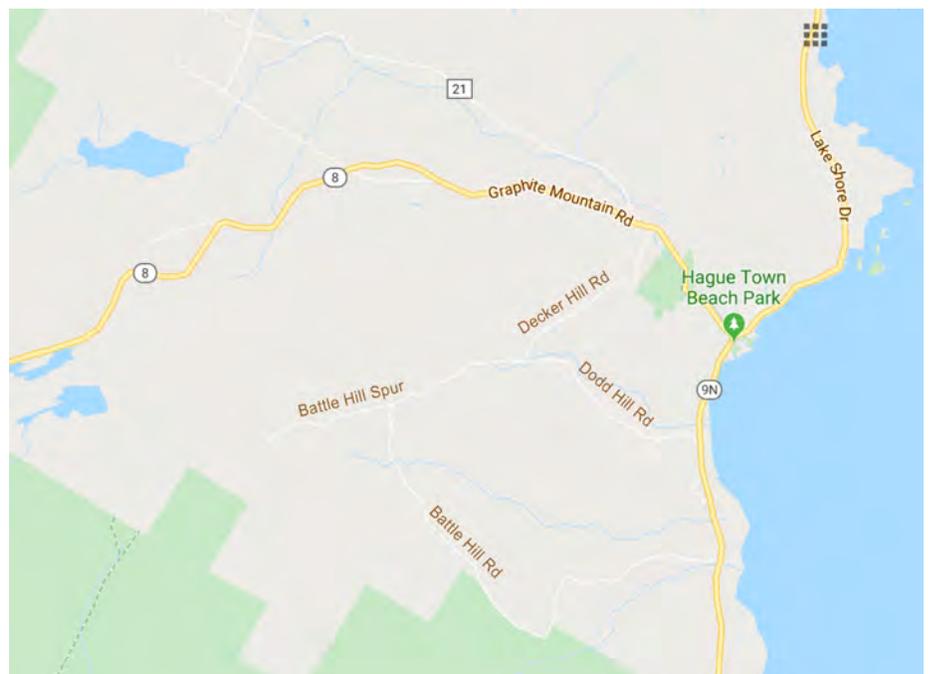
Battle Hill was the scene of other strange happenings in Hague's history. One resident put an old woman he was living with out in a shed in the winter, where she froze to death. This same man is thought to possibly have been involved in the murders in Graphite's Swamp Gore in 1902, another murder mystery that was never solved. But that's a story for another day, since it is only loosely connected to Battle Hill.

But fear not! For we have yet another mystery – that of the missing peddlers. In earlier times, peddlers came through Hague with their packs, selling their wares to households along their route. But some never got past Battle Hill. One unfortunate peddler was thought to have been robbed and murdered

and stuffed in a well; his horse returned home, minus the man and his pack. Some time later, another peddler – who was boarding in a house in Hague – related that he had been fast asleep one night when a woman climbed through his bedroom window. He grabbed her by the hair, which came out in clumps as she fell to the ground. As the story goes, she always wore a wig after that. This same woman is said to have shipped someone in a barrel to Lake George Village via a steamer that stopped at Hague's steamer dock. Another unfortunate peddler perhaps?

What became of the many missing peddlers was a mystery. A clue may have been provided by a man by the name of Ed Pratt, who married the newly-widowed Mrs. Lewis and moved into her house. One day, he ventured up into the attic, where he discovered several peddler packs. He lost no time in running out of the house and back to his own home. What happened to the marriage after that is not reported.

So, for any of you who are considering venturing up to Battle Hill Road in the dark shadows of Halloween night, consider yourself forewarned of the ghosts and goblins that haunt the woods in them thar hills. ▣



BRIANNA'S LAW IN EFFECT

By 2025, all operators of powerboats must take a safety course.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has signed Brianna's Law to phase in requirements that all operators of motorized watercraft must complete a state-approved boating safety course.

Brianna's Law is named after Brianna Lieneck, an 11-year-old Long Island girl who was killed in a 2005 boating accident.

"Boating has become much more popular and our rules and our laws really have not kept pace with it," Governor Cuomo said. "There should be a basic level of knowledge that you have before you're given the permission to go out there and operate a boat, and making a safety course mandatory is common sense. It protects the operator of the boat and everyone that operator could come into contact with, and it will make our waters safer. It took a horrific accident to make this situation real for people, but through this law Brianna is saving lives and her love lives on."

Under the phase-in, all motorboat operators born on or after January 1, 1993 must complete a safety course to operate a motorboat beginning in 2020. Those born after January 1, 1988 must complete a safety course beginning in 2022. Those born on or after January 1, 1983 must complete a safety course beginning in 2023. Those born on or after January 1, 1978 must

complete a safety course beginning in 2024. **The requirement will extend to ALL motorboat operators beginning in 2025, regardless of age.** Failure to comply could result in a fine of between \$100 and \$250 under the new law that goes into effect January 1, 2020.

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, which administers the law, estimates that there are nearly one million boaters who will have to take the safety courses before the end of the phase-in on January 1, 2025.

Governor Cuomo also directed State Parks to launch a boating safety promotional campaign to ensure that boaters are aware of the new

requirement to take a course online or in person and to promote safety on our waterways, including radio and social media advertisements, distribution of informational materials to law enforcement, the U.S. Coast Guard, marinas, boating education instructors and boating safety

partners and State Parks website updates.

The law allows for the continued acceptance of State Parks approved internet-based learning and certification to meet this new demand. Classroom courses will also continue to be available. Information about both Internet and in-classroom courses can be found on the State Parks' website at <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/education.aspx>.



There are nearly 439,000 registered powerboats in the state, according to the 2018 State Recreational Boating Report. The law does not apply to operators of sailboats, kayaks, standup paddleboards, rowboats or canoes. ❑

"HAUNTED HISTORY" AT HANCOCK HOUSE

The Ticonderoga Historical Society will end its program year and celebrate the Halloween season with a free program entitled, "Haunted Adirondacks: A Horrible History" on Friday, October 18th, 2019 at 7 pm at the Hancock House, 6 Moses Circle, Ticonderoga.

"The scariest stories usually have their basis in historical fact," said Program Presenter Diane O'Connor. "From the well-known story of Duncan Campbell at Fort Ticonderoga to Lord Howe, to lesser-known ghosts

across the region, this program will look at our local history in a spine-tingling way."

Specters from Crown Point, Mineville, Elizabethtown, Westport, Ticonderoga, Lake Placid, Lake George, and other regional locations will be included. All have ghostly – and ghostly stories to relate, according to O'Connor.



Reservations are not necessary to attend this free program, but seats may be reserved ahead of time by calling 518-585-7868 or via e-mail to tihistory@bridgepoint1.com.

Refreshments will be served. ❑

BROWN'S RAID BATTLE RE-ENACTMENT HELD

Fort Ticonderoga presented an exciting two-day battle re-enactment September 14 - 15, 2019. This living history weekend recreated "Brown's Raid," a little-known 1777 action-adventure story. During the dramatic event, guests witnessed the high-stakes mission undertaken by Colonel John Brown and his patriot militia.



Programming throughout the weekend brought to life the American raid on Ticonderoga in its attempt to recapture the strategic fort.

Visitors explored the Royal Navy's role in the attack and experienced the battle from the tour boat, Carillon. Atop Mount Defiance, visitors met the guard of Rangers, which had attacked British-held Fort Ticonderoga. Guests followed the American raid on Ticonderoga as it unfolded across the historic landscape, while they explored the mechanics and weapons of this daring attack through living history demonstrations. ▣

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE FORT

Friday, October 25 and Saturday, October 26, 2019 - Maze by Moonlight

Visitors will navigate through the six acres of towering corn stalks at night and find clues connected to the fort's story. Bring your flashlight.

Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27 - Living History Event: "Nothing Could Exceed the Spirit and Alertness"

Attendees will discover crucial moments of the Revolutionary War. The tense days when the work of 13,000 American soldiers held the line against the British Army and fleet on Lake Champlain will be re-created. Through weapon demonstrations, tours, and living history vignettes, the events of October 1776, which were vital to securing the ultimate fate of American independence, will be shown.

Saturday, November 2 and Sunday, November 3 - Seventh Annual Material Matters: "It's in the Details" Seminar - advanced registration required ▣

TACC TEAM EXPANDS

The Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) has two new staff members: Erin Mullen is the Member Service and Event Manager and Kelly Carey is an Office Administrator. They both will also serve as Visitor Service Representatives.

Born and raised in Ticonderoga, Erin has numerous years of experience in community and staff relations, as well as event planning. After graduating from Ticonderoga High School, she studied Communications at the University of Buffalo. She resides locally with her husband and two sons.

Kelly Carey is also a Ticonderoga native. Kelly brings an array of office, customer services, visitor service, and professional experiences. After graduating from Ticonderoga High School, she attended college in Syracuse. She has two daughters. ▣

TI'COUSTICS

The next Ti'Coustics music shows, which feature local musicians, will take place Wednesday, October 16 and Wednesday, November 6, 2019, both from 7 - 9 pm.

The October 16th show will feature Dan Rabideau, Devon Slatterly, and Joe Phillips and will be held at Olive's Ti Pi Restaurant, 24 Wayne Street (just off of Montcalm Street between the Fire Department and Stewarts).

The November 6th show will be at the American Legion at 104 Montcalm Street and will feature Terrina Russell-Cook and Brad Peria. ▣

MASON/STAR PUBLIC DINNER

A roast turkey breast dinner, sponsored jointly by the members of Mount Defiance Lodge No. 794, F. & A.M. and Fort Ticonderoga Chapter No. 263, Order of the Eastern Star, will be served Friday, October 25, 2019, from 4:30 - 6 pm in the downstairs dining hall of the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street. Take-outs will be available. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children 12 years old and under and will be sold at the door. Parking will be available along Montcalm Street and at the Hancock House. ▣

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

The Hague Chronicle is supported by tax-deductible donations from its readers. You can contribute online by going to the Donate Tab on our website, www.thehaguechronicle.org .

Publisher: Judy Stock
Editor: Bobbi Bryant Taylor
Layout Editor: Chris Quinn

Treasurer: Bob Whitaker
Staff: Claire Best, Tina King, Ginger Henry Kuenzel, Pat McDonough, Sandy Powell, and Jan Whitaker

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

PO Box 748

Hague, New York 12836-0748



ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

CALENDAR

Oct 2019

OCTOBER

- 16** 7 – 9 pm Ti'Coustics at Olive's Ti Pi
- 16** Latest that the October issue of *The Hague Chronicle* will be sent
- 18** 7 pm Hancock House "Haunted History"
- 22** 1:30 pm Senior Club Meeting
- 24** 7 pm ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
- 25** 4:30-6 pm Mason/Star Public Dinner
- 25 - 26** Maze by Moonlight at Ft. Ti
- 25 - 26** HalloweenFest in Ti
- 26 - 27** Living History: "Spirit of Alertness" at Ft. Ti
- 31** Carillon Garden Club wreath orders due

NOVEMBER

- 2 - 3** "Material Matters: Details" at Ft. Ti
- 3** 2 am Daylight Savings Time ends; clocks "fall back"
- 5** 6 am - 9 pm **GENERAL ELECTION**
- 5** noon HVFD election luncheon at the CC
- 6** 7 – 9 pm Ti'Coustics at American Legion
- 7** 7 pm PLANNING BOARD
- 11** VETERANS DAY/Town Offices closed
- 11** 11 am Ceremony at Veterans Park
- 12** 6 pm TOWN BOARD
- 12** Deadline for November issue of *The Hague Chronicle*
- 16** 7 – 9 pm Ti'Coustics at American Legion
- 18** Latest that the November issue of *The Hague Chronicle* will be sent
- 19** 1:30 pm Senior Club Meeting
- 21** 7 pm ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
- 28** Town Offices closed

TRANSFER STATION HOURS:

September 2 through June 30: Wednesday: 10 am to 4 pm, Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday: CLOSED