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### TOWN BOARD RELEASES REPORT

At the March meeting, the Town Board approved the release of the State of the Town, January 2005 report written by Councilman Gladu. It is a comprehensive overview of the Town's goals and activities during 2004. The complete document will be available on the Town website <[www.townofhague.org](http://www.townofhague.org)> or written copies may be obtained at the Community Center.

Some of the highlights in the report include:

Financial - The Town Board applied \$500,000 of the revenue received from the Warren County sales tax to reduce the County property tax rate from \$3.94 to \$2.88 per \$1000 of assessed value. They also applied \$252,109 of local unallocated fund balances to eliminate the Town tax for 2005. As a result the overall property tax levy for county, town and fire district has been reduced by 37%.

Infrastructure - The new management of the Transfer Station has resulted in a yearly revenue of \$8,400 for the Town versus a deficit of \$7,000 in the previous year. Operation costs for the sewer district for 2005 are expected to be \$400 per EDU, down from \$475 during the previous year.

"Hague Pride" - Activities of some of the important local organizations are highlighted including the Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels, Senior Citizens Club, Chamber of Commerce and The Clifton West Historical Museum as well as the success of the youth day camp (Town of Hague/Silver Bay Association partnership) and enforcement of the local junk law.

The report ends with optimism on the growth of the Town, compatible with the Comprehensive plan, as the Town looks forward to the 2007 Bicentennial.

### EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

The annual Easter Sunrise Service, sponsored by The Hague Baptist Church will be held at 6AM on Easter morning, March 27th at the Hague Public Beach. A pancake breakfast will be served immediately after the service. All are invited to attend.

### OPENING ON ZBA

Due to the resignation of Nelson Waters, who is moving out of town, there is an opening on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Any interested residents are encouraged to send a letter of application to the Town Board for this position.

The ZBA meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Community Center. The ZBA hears applications for variances to the Town Zoning Code and appeals of decisions by the Zoning Enforcement Officer. The current members are Robert Goetsch, chairman, Bruce Clark, vice-chairman, Mary Lou Doulin, George lanson, Tina King and Bill Pittman.

### ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS

Please remember to let us know (see phones/emails above) when you return to your Adirondack nests so we can get *The Hague Chronicle* to you in a timely manner!

### IS YOUR MAILING RENEWAL DATE DUE?

Your mailing renewal date is in the lower right hand corner of your mailing label. We circle it in red the month before it is due and again the month it is due. After that we send a last issue reminder and then your name is deleted if we still haven't heard from you. Your voluntary deductions are tax-deductible.

### SENIOR CLUB NEWS

### MEMORIAL DAY PARADE - SAT., 5/28

February's covered dish luncheon meeting was a tasty success, as always. We also celebrated the birthday of one of our "90+ Elite Club", Ursula Montbriand, who arrived escorted by her son, Frank. She enjoyed not only her gaily decorated surprise cake & gift, but also the smiling well wishes from many friends.

On March 15th the Seniors will be at the Ti Nursing Home to celebrate George Traver's birthday. He, too, is a member of our "90+ Elite Club" and we look forward to sharing a fun party with him and some of his friends.

The March Meeting will be a free event open to all residents of Hague. Our guest speaker will be Beth Bidwell, Executive Director of the Wildlife Institute of Eastern NY. Her "Birds of Prey" program will include live bird presentations and provide information on Adirondack raptors such as barred owl, falcon, hawks, etc. Do plan to come. The meeting is Tuesday, March 22nd at 1:30 PM at the Community Center. This is a great program and one you all will enjoy. See you then. ... mp

#### 55-ALIVE SAFE DRIVING COURSE

The Hague Senior Citizens Club is sponsoring this course scheduled for Thursday, April 7 at the Community Center starting at 9:30 AM with registration starting at 9. Be sure to bring your driver's license with you. Anyone 55+ years may take this course - cost is \$10. This is a 6-hr course with a 30-minute lunch break. Upon completion you will receive a certificate which entitles you to a 10% discount on auto insurance, good for three years. Coffee refreshments will be available in a.m. but bring your own lunch. Enrollment is limited, so if interested, please call Madeline at 543-6130.

#### HVFD NEWS

There were three fire calls using 45 man hours during the month of February and eight ambulance calls using 84.5 man hours.

On behalf of the HVFD we would like to thank everyone who supported our winter weekend breakfasts. Our department was able to donate \$860 towards the Mary C. Beste Scholarship Fund.

Once again we are getting prepared for our Memorial Day chicken BBQ on May 28, 2005. Serving time, menu and prices will be announced at a later date. ... Joanne Trudeau

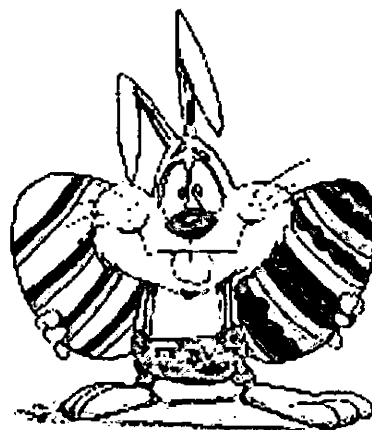
The Parade Committee is definitely in gear with many new ideas on tap. The Fun Fest at the beach promises to be a great family day, with games, demonstrations, crafts, various foods, and music by WOKO Radio along with live performances - one being the Cambridge Band with a 30-min concert prior to parade time. Our Parade presently has three bands under contract with two or three more possible, plus we have several inquiries out for various other units to take part. Hague's DAY TO REMEMBER is looking good!

The Committee wishes to thank those who have already sent in their donation to support the Memorial Day Celebration. We sincerely appreciate your assistance. Anyone else who wishes to contribute, please make your checks payable to THE HAGUE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB PARADE ACCOUNT and mail to the Community Center, Rt 8, Hague, NY 12836. Remember, it is all of you who make this event possible.

Anyone interested in taking part in the Fun Fest at the Beach (crafts, music, demos, etc), please call us. Those of you who plan to be in the parade, bear in mind prizes will be given for: BEST IN PARADE, MOST CREATIVE, MOST PATRIOTIC, & BEST YOUTH PRESENTATION. All are welcome to take part in the fun - just be sure to contact us.

For further information please contact Emily Cobb at 543-6325, Dottie Henry at 543-6633 or Madeline Pelkey at 543-6130.

*HAPPY EASTER!*



## WINTER WEEKEND RESULTS

The weekend of February 18 - 20th saw renewed winter activity in Hague. The results of the Polar Bear 5K Run were as follows: In the Co-Ed Open division - 1st - Jim Cunningham (35.39), 2nd - Liz McDonough (36.13) and 3rd - Jason Giersch (36.32); in the Masters division - 1st Dave Burroughs (30.56), 2nd - Chris McDonough (33.12) and 3rd - Brian Teague (33.35) and in the Seniors Division - 1st - Peter Waite (37.02) and 2nd - Jim Cunningham (43.29).

The 50-50 raffle for the benefit of the Beste Scholarship Fund was won by Sharon Zeyak. Donna Van Wirt and Diane Farinick won the snow sculpture contest.

A new event held this year was a Tug-of-War. Winning the women's division was a team consisting of Sheri DeLarm, Sandy Smith, Penny Mason, Jamie Olcott and Katie Wells. In the men's division, the winning team was made up of Cris Ginn, Ken Shultz, Steve Young, Gardiner Gendron and Colin Dunn.

The highlight of the outdoor events was the Polar Bear Swim. Nearly 200 people surrounded the area around the dock at the Trout House Village to watch seventeen hardy souls jump off the dock.

The annual Beste Scholarship Dinner held at Silver Bay was again the main event of the weekend and was followed by a successful auction held by the Northern Lake George Rotary Club. Winners of the \$300 Beste Scholarships were: Thomas Haskell, son of Tom and Meg Haskell who is attending Clinton CC with a major in Criminal Justice; Michael Michela, son of Joseph and Debby Michela who is attending Hudson Valley CC with a major in Physical Education; Matt Frasier, son of Dick and Edna Frasier, who is attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA with a major in Civil Engineering; Monica Sitts, daughter of Ron and Maria Fuller who is attending Hartwick College, Oneonta with a major in Chemistry and Matthew Russell, son of Victoria Fish and Mark Russell, who is also attending Clinton CC and majoring in Criminal Justice.

## MORE HONORS FOR SANTANIELLO

Ted Santaniello, son of Kathy and Sal Santaniello, Silver Bay, placed third in the 400-meter dash at the SUNYAC and the ECAC indoor track championships. At the New Balance Armory, he ran the first leg of the 4 x 400 relay in 49.9 seconds which set a new PSU relay record of 3:21:41.

Ted won a bronze medal in the open 400-meter race at the 2004 Empire State Games which has qualified him for the State Games of America to be held in Colorado Springs in July.

Santaniello, a junior at SUNY-Plattsburgh with a 3.19 GPA, was named Student Athlete of the week in both January and February



Doug Zeyak entertains during the weekend country music show.

## LAKE GEORGE PARK COMMISSION

The LGPC announced an Invasive Species Advisory for the 2005 boating season. The Commission is calling on every lake user to follow the basic invasive species precautions, "Inspect, Wash, Drain, Dry," to prevent transportation of zebra mussels, waterchestnut, alewife and other invasive species into Lake George. The Commission is also appealing to the public to comply with the Park Commission's regulations prohibiting any person from launching a boat into Lake George's waters unless it has been inspected and all marine growth has been removed.

"Prevention is the easiest, most affordable means of protecting the Lake George ecosystem from invasive water species," said Senator Betty Little. "The LGPC and the businesses they partner with do a tremendous job each year educating boaters. Anyone wanting to enjoy the lake should also respect the lake and that means taking a little time to ensure the vessel they are launching is free of marine life that can harm Lake George." For more info. please contact the Lake George Park Commission at 518-668-9347 or at [www.lgpc.state.ny.us](http://www.lgpc.state.ny.us)

## LOCAL MAN CELEBRATES HIS 100TH

Dr. Henry Mouradian, a retired dentist in Ticonderoga, celebrated his 100th birthday on March 12. Dr. Mouradian is a very active member of the community and a long-time member of the Kiwanis Club.

A celebratory luncheon was served after the Sunday morning service at the First United Methodist Church in Ticonderoga on March 13. All monies contributed to the luncheon were given to his favorite charity, *The Heifer Project*.

## DOWNTOWN HANGING BASKETS

It is not too late to send your \$25 contribution to the hanging basket project in Hague. Please make check payable to The Enhancement Committee, Community Center, Hague, NY 12836. Include your name as well as the name(s) of person(s) you wish to honor. New requests will be taken on a first-come-first-served basis, as the hanging poles become available - after we hear from previous donors. Brass markers are included in the \$25 donation.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 2/24/05

Chairman Robert Goetsch opened the meeting with Tina Barth, Bruce Clark, George Ianson, Bill Pittman and Nelson Waters present and Mary Lou Doulin absent.

Under old business, the Board learned that Nikolay Wilen (43.13-1-4, Lakeshore Drive) will not need a variance since a new survey shows the total area of his parcel to be 2.21 acres which can be subdivided into two lots of at least 1.1 acres each.

Under new business, the Board set a public hearing for next month for Pat and George Dougherty (43.13-1-36, 4 Cranberry Lane in Cape Cod Village) who are requesting an area variance to remove their existing house and construct a new one. The new structure will occupy 34% of the property where the current one covers 21%.

PLANNING BOARD - 3/3/05

Chairman David Swanson called the meeting to order with Rolly Allen, John Brown, Cathy Clark, Tim Costello and Pam Peterson present and Peter Foster absent. Councilman Dick Gladu represented the ZEO office since Mr. Bailey is on vacation.

Under old business the Board approved the subdivision for Wilen (43.13-1-4, Lakeshore Drive, TR-1) with the condition that plumbing be removed from the smaller living structure by 6/30/05 and that by 6/30/06 the structure will either have been modified to the satisfaction of the ZEO or attached to the main structure. These conditions were imposed since there can only be one living structure on a newly created lot.

They also approved the White application (26.10-1-25, North Friends Point Rd, TR-1) to demolish an existing house and replace it.

Under new business, site reviews were scheduled for Dougherty (see above) and Barton (60.17-1-13, Oneida Drive, TR-1R) who wishes to construct an addition to an existing house within 100 feet of the Lake.

TOWN BOARD MEETING - 3/8/05

All members of the Town Board were present; Dan Belden, Supervisor and Councilmen Bob Patchett, Dick Gladu, Lu Megow and Rudy Meola. After the Pledge of Allegiance a moment of silence was held for Leonard Corlew.

Committee Reports:

Assessor/Justice - Councilman Gladu reported that they are still working toward the 100% target for the equalization rate. He has also recently been made aware of NYS bill S2846 introduced by Senator Betty Little. This bill seeks to amend the real property tax law in order to fix the assessed property value for residents of age seventy (70) or older. It would provide state reimbursement to the town for lost tax revenue. Councilman Gladu also mentioned a property tax reform task force in Ulster Co where towns share a common school district. He would like to see Ticonderoga and Hague send out a joint memo on this issue. (See <www.nytowns.org>)

Councilman Meola reported that the Board is continuing its negotiations with Silver Bay Association with regard to a payment in lieu of taxes.

Buildings & Grounds - The Board is continuing its efforts to correct building problems at the Community Center.

CARE - Councilman Patchett noted that food is distributed on Thursdays from 1 to 2 pm. The coordinators, Sheryl Bailey and Viola Vassallo are encouraging anyone eligible to use the program including more young people who might qualify.

Finance - The annual financial report has been completed and the transition to new software is planned for completion by April 1st.

Fire - Work continues on a variance and updating their survey.

Highway - Councilman Megow reported that a deed of property on Overbrook Road West shows it is all private property. He moved to rescind his previous motion that the Town maintain it as a public road and plow there. The Board approved the current motion, however Councilman Meola noted that the previous motion in February was null and void anyway because the Town cannot turn a private road into a public road on its own. The Board will notify the affected property owners.

Con't on page 5 - Town Board

*Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom.*

Albert Einstein



Con't from page 4 - Town Board

Museum and Historian - Councilman Meola distributed copies of the new by-laws of the Clifton West Hague Museum. The Museum Board of Trustees will be composed of a member from the Hague Town Board, the Hague Historical Society, administrative staff at Silver Bay Association, the museum profession, the Hague Town Historian (ex-officio) and at least two (2) but no more than four (4) members at large from interested community members. Councilman Patchett asked about the requirement for a SBA staff member and it was indicated that the Town wanted to work with Silver Bay as well as share expertise since SBA also has museum archives. Board members have met with the architect and the preliminary sketches are at the Community Center.

Planning/Zoning/Stormwater - Councilman Gladu thanked Tim Costello for filling in at the ZEO office and noted that congratulations are due to him for getting his BA degree.

Sewer District 1 - The Town is working to correct problems with a frozen area.

Transfer and Recycling - The yard waste contract is in place and Casella will be in touch with Councilman Megow about renewing the transfer station agreement. Councilman Gladu suggested that plans should be made for the spring pick-up day.

Youth - Councilman Meola reported on attending a meeting of the Warren County Youth Commission where a summary was given of a survey which showed a progressively high percentage of alcohol and drug use by students. He noted that Warrensburg had low attendance at a community meeting to discuss the data. A conference of youth leaders is to be held at ACC.

In Unfinished business, the Board:

Reviewed a recommendation from the Enhancement Committee on signage and concurred that no signs should be placed in the triangle at the intersection of Routes 8 and 9N. Since the Town has a permit to work that area from the State DOT it can regulate the triangle. A dissenting viewpoint felt that organizations should be able to put them there if it was limited. The Board discussed having a "nice sandwich board placed on the bridge." They have sent back a charge to Enhancement Committee to design two (2) such boards.

Appointed John Brown as Clerk of the Planning Board.

Under New Business, the Board:

1. Accepted with regret the resignation of Nelson Waters from the ZBA effective 4/1/05. Councilman Meola noted that these town boards need balance and should be represented by all sections of the community.
2. Approved hiring recommendations for Lifeguards, Park Attendants, and Visitor Center Staff. Letters were sent out to all employees from last summer. Two young men under the international connection program from Macedonia will be lifeguards along with Peter Christenberry, summer resident of Oneida Bay. Joan Steitz, Michelle Bissell, and Joe McCranels will also be employed with Dave Snow as an alternate.
3. Heard from Tom LaPointe about equity concerns about using and grooming snowmobile trails. He will meet further with Supervisor Belden to discuss these concerns.
4. Approved a resolution designating the Community Center as the Polling Place in the Town of Hague.
5. Heard from Supervisor Belden that he will be out of town and has therefore rescheduled the next Town Board meeting for Thursday, April 14th at 6:30 pm with the Board meeting at 5:30 pm to audit the bills.
6. Scheduled a public hearing on Amendments to the Sewer User Law for April 14th at 6 pm before the Board meeting.
7. Approved the release of the State of the Town, January 2005 report written by Councilman Gladu. (see related article p. 1)

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Belden mentioned that the County has money to pay for a cell tower and the Warren Co Sheriff's Dept. has a machine to do testing for the location. It will need an APA permit which he thinks will be given for public safety reasons. He noted that the APA has no jurisdiction in the hamlet.

Adjournment:

Prior to adjournment the Board went into executive session with the assessor to discuss the negotiations with SBA.





*"The Gates at Central Park, NYC"*  
*photos by Judy Stock 2/05*

### VISITING "THE GATES"

The worldwide attention given to New York's Central Park during the display of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's *"The Gates, Central Park, New York, 1979-2005"* has touched our area. Several local residents made the trip to New York and one of our seasonal residents, Mary Behr, was among those who actually installed this unique art work.

Mary, who is getting her MFA in Design and Technology at Parsons School of Design, was on the installation crew having signed up on the artists' website over a year ago. She writes:

There were 600 installers, from all over the world. We worked in groups of eight for six days. The project planners had allotted five days for installation, but we were so good that it only took four! Then we spent a day cleaning up the park and the last day unfurling the saffron curtains.

Spending nine hours each day in Central Park was such a treat! It was a pleasure to act as the artists' ambassadors, which meant answering every question--and the occasional 'attack' politely. Every day, the numbers were the same: ninety-five heartfelt thanks for all of our hard work, five angry outbursts, three celebrity sightings, and one third grade class, who became very attached to us.

I loved "The Gates." I loved the design and the engineering; I loved the placement that highlighted the winding paths of the park, and I loved the carnival vibe that they inspired in the park. There were four million visitors during the cold and windy installation period, up from 750,000 the same period last year.

I even loved the ephemeral quality of the project. The Gates was only up for sixteen days. Today, all of the 7,503 Gates are gone and will soon dissolve into new items: the steel bases will become rods for reinforcing concrete; the aluminum corners and base sleeves are to adorn houses as gutters and siding; the vinyl frames will be recreated as PVC pipe, fences, and tool handles; and the saffron ripstop nylon material will be turned back into thread.

Cathy and Bruce Clark, with daughters Katie and Jennifer and Cathy's mom visited "The Gates" on Bruce's birthday just after it snowed. Cathy noted that the billowing saffron made "the best party decorations". The Clarks were delighted to see the "mammoth amount of activity" with everyone smiling and enjoyed sharing the beautiful sight with "strangers from all over the world."

Councilman Rudy Meola, who was in New York for the meeting of the Association of Towns, also took the opportunity to view the scene at Central Park. He was very impressed at the creativity of the project and the commitment by the artists who did it all "at no expense to the taxpayers."

Judy Stock, Hague Chronicle Publisher, who was visiting in the area, also enjoyed the unique experience which "nearly everyone can appreciate without having to debate artistic quality."

Although the work had been dismantled more information and pictures are available on the artists' website at <http://christojeanneclaude.net/>.

BORN: A daughter, Aimee Jacqueline, to Charlene and David Ehmann of Lake George on January 6, 2005. Her maternal grandmother is Hague Postmaster Jacqueline Fort and her great-grandfather is William Beach Lambert, both of Silver Bay.

BORN: A girl, Michaela, to Jennifer and Robert Mathews of London and Sabbath Day Point on February 15. Proud grandparents are Polly and Dick Mathews, Sabbath Day Point.

BORN: A boy, Tucker Patrick, to Rick and Molly McPartin on March 9 in Concord, NH. Proud grandparents are Rev. Julie (Henry) and Ken McPartin.

MARRIED: Gregory Klingler of Staten Island and Silver Bay, NY and Nancy Taylor, Staten Island and Lake Luzerne, on February 12 in the Fort Wadsworth Military Chapel, Staten Island. Rev. Skip Tremby, Assistant Pastor of Hague Wesleyan Church officiated. Gregory is the son of Fred and Ruth Klingler, Staten Island and Silver Bay.

DIED: Ruth Bohnet Jenkins, 99, on February 16 in Saratoga Springs, NY. Mrs. Jenkins is predeceased by three husbands; F. Wilson Keller, Joseph Mirtl and Willmer Jenkins and a son, Robert Keller. Survivors include a daughter Dr. Jean Keller Miller, Bronxville, NY, four grandchildren and six great grandchildren. A memorial service is planned for July at Silver Bay where Mrs. Jenkins summered more than 90 years. Memorials may be sent to Grace Memorial Chapel, Silver Bay Association, Silver Bay, NY 12874.

THIRD MARKING PERIOD HONOR ROLL :

The following Hague students have been listed on the third marking period honor roll for Ticonderoga High School. Congratulations!!

Grade 12 - First Honors:

Aren Laundree, Wyatt Peterson

2nd Honors: Danielle Connors,

Grade 11 - 2nd Honors:

Sarah Bissell, Andrew Trombley

Grade 10 - First Honors:

Akashia Swinton, Kacheena Trudeau

2nd Honors:

Janine Best, John Breitenbach

Grade 9 - First Honors: Samantha Abare

2nd Honors: Alanna Swinton

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TEST

A high school equivalency test will be given on Wednesday & Thursday, April 6 & 7, 2005 from 3:30 - 8:00 PM at Ticonderoga High School. Attendance is required each day. To obtain an application, call the Guidance Office at Ticonderoga High School at 585-6661, Ext. 123. Applications are to be returned to the Guidance Office, THS, 5 Calkins Place, Ticonderoga, NY 12883.

Kindergarten Parents Screening Information Night will be held on Tuesday, March 22 at 7PM in the Ti Elementary School cafetorium for parents of incoming students for the 2005-2006 school year. Kindergarten screenings will take place on April 1, 5 and 8.

Parents must bring their child's birth certificate, registration packet, and immunization record to the school at the time of their screening appointment.

Families new to the school district who have children of kindergarten age are asked to contact the Elementary School office at 585-7437, ext. 219.

TICONDEROGA SCHOOL BOARD

The regular meeting of the Ticonderoga School Board was held on February 15, 2005 with Gary Davis and Dick Frasier absent. All others were present. The following are excerpts from the minutes of that meeting: Approved leave of absence for Kerry Finglund, Art Teacher; approved John Fritz as full-time bus driver; approved Susan Thatcher as food service helper; approved Sharon O'Hara as school secretary; approved the appointment of Pat Cornell as full-time music teacher; approved Ann Westervelt, Colleen Courtney, Thomas Palandrani as substitute teachers; approved Katherine Joubert as substitute teacher aide, approved Veronica Denno and Thomas Taylor as substitute cleaners; approved recommendations of Committee on Special Education.

Reports were heard from Superintendent of Schools, John McDonald, Mrs. Reale on Essex Co. School Boards Association and Mr. Dodd, Mr. Cossey and Ms Streeter on Technology.

A **Budget workshop** is scheduled for **Hague** at the Community Center on April 5th at 7pm. Hearings on the proposed budget will be held on April 26 and May 10 with a vote on the proposed budget and election of Board of Education to be held on May 17. The last date for filing for a position on the Board of Education is April 15 and voter registration is on May 10.





### TICONDEROGA FESTIVAL GUILD

The Ti Festival Guild has released its program for the coming summer. The Tuesday night concerts are as follows:

July 5 - Opening night celebration with "The Brits with Beatles music"

July 12 - Celtic and World Folk Music "Simple Gifts"

July 19 - Styling Variety and Humor in Music - "Alien Folklife"

July 26 - Eclectic Rhythm Sounds and Vocals - Vicki Russell

Aug. 2 - "The Return of the Brass" Adirondack Brass

Aug. 9 - Hometown Night - Tom Wilkinson and Ty Chanson

The Arts Trek programs are held on Wednesday mornings under the tent at 10AM

July 6 - Yellow Submarine & Favorites - "The Brits"

July 13 - Spoons Workshop and Folk Songs - "Simple Gifts"

July 20 - "The Lost Dragon" - The Puppet People

July 27 - "The Pioneers" - Kit's Kaboodle (Kitty Jones)

Aug. 3 - "Be Cool, Be Safe" - Rick Adam

Aug 10 - Songs of the Rainforest "Taino" (Music with a Latin beat)

ARTS TREK is open to all children and would-be children free of charge. Season tickets for the Tuesday night performances are \$45.00 until May 1; After May 1 the price is \$50.

The Ti Festival Guild is in its 26th year bringing the performing arts to the Ticonderoga area. Your contribution to this very worthwhile organization would be very much appreciated. Please help to continue the Arts Trek and other arts presentations in the Ticonderoga area for years to come.

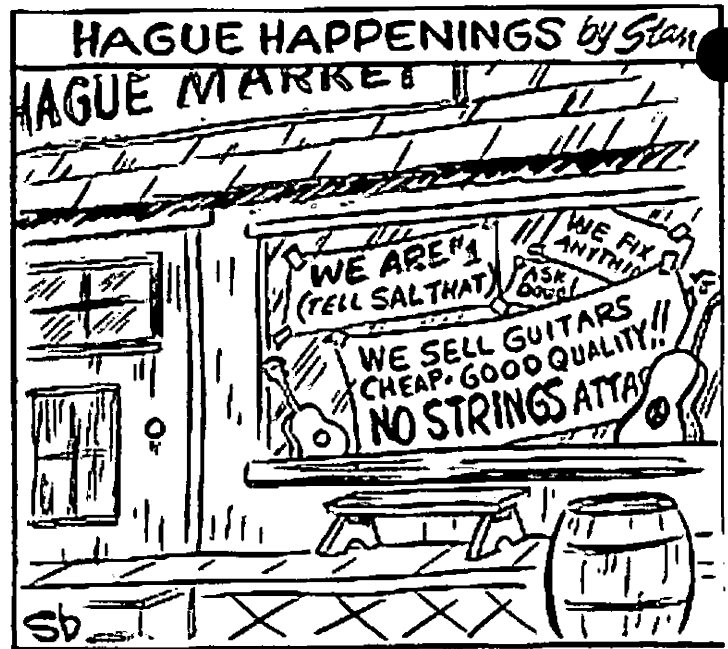
For further info. contact Cathie Burdick, Executive Director at The Ticonderoga Festival Guild, 121 Montcalm St., Ticonderoga, NY 12885. Tel. 585-6716.

### TICONDEROGA CARTOON MUSEUM OPEN

The Ticonderoga Cartoon Museum has reopened for the season, announced Stan Burdick, director. Three days each week are available for viewing over 600 cartoons - Mon., Wed., and Fri. from 3 - 4 PM. A special program is being planned for most Fridays. These will be either a lecture demonstration by a visiting cartoonist or a display of the works of a noted comic artist. Currently Walt Disney will be featured for the month of March. Other special exhibits to be shown are: Sid Couchey on "Richie Rich and Friends," "Thomas Nast defeating Boss Tweed", the famous "Gibson Girl", "Animation with Chuck Jones," and "100 Years of the Comics."

The museum in Ticonderoga is unique in its appeal to all ages from 8 to 80 (and older). It is one of only a dozen such museums east of the Mississippi. Established in Hague in 1998, it was moved to Ticonderoga last April, 2004.

A small donation is suggested for visitors this spring and summer. Reduced admissions are available for families, school classes, and organizations. Call 518-585-7015 for information.



**COMING NEXT MONTH IN  
THE HAGUE CHRONICLE**

- \*\* Grand ReOpening of Lakeshore Garage
- \*\*Real Estate Sales in Hague
- \*\*Latest on Taxes & Assessments

Next mailing date: April 21st

*A strong positive mental attitude will create more miracles than any wonder drug.*

Patricia Neal



# NATURE NEWS

by Nancy Wotton Scarzello



As the deadline neared for getting this article into the Chronicle the snow was falling heavily adding to the deep snow base already on the ground. I was finding it difficult to think about the ice going out, as I knew it would be soon. I always look to something in nature to inspire my writing so I decided to look back at my journal from last year to see what was "happening" at this time.

My husband Rick and I had come for a few days and the ice was still covering the lake except for a few small areas. Most of the snow was gone with just a few patches in the shade next to the house. I realized that we had come at that time of transition between winter and spring when the ice begins to loosen its grip on the shore but before complete ice-out. I'd like to share an excerpt from my journal recounting the experience.

*March 27, 2004. I'm looking out of the window at a frozen Forest Bay. Rick and I came over this morning and will stay the night. I love being the first ones here to open up the house. It is still morning and already we are settled in. We took the sheets off the windows, got water from the lake to boil for drinking and cooking, and then a couple of buckets from the brook to flush the toilets. We only have the little heater on since the house is warming up nicely from the fire we got going as soon as we arrived.*

*While collecting kindling from fallen branches in the front yard, Rick found a dropped deer antler. We must have stepped right over it three or four times, but it blended in like another stick of kindling. He said the other one was probably nearby since once one falls off the other is easy for the deer to hook onto the ground or tree and pull off the itching prong. I couldn't believe it when I found the other one not 6 feet away from the first, just like he had predicted.*

*Right now I am watching some Merganser ducks fishing and playing in the little bit of open water along the shore. One female and five males keep diving underwater and swimming under the ice, then popping up somewhere in the 2' wide crack in the ice where the water looks like a small river running out into the bay.*

*March 28, 2004. This morning the weather channel said today would be 'abundantly sunny' and it is. Cold though, with a mild north wind blowing and the crack in the ice of open water and most of the open water along the shore has glazed over again except for a little 'pond' where our dock would go.*

*The mergansers are congregated in the open water and I wonder if they have spent the night there, swimming huddled together, and if that has kept the ice from freezing again in that place. The color and texture of the ice surface looks as if it was frozen instantly as gusts of wind swept across the surface. Dark blue-green streaks and mottled areas of frost make it look like a freeze frame of wind skipping over the flat surface of water, small waves frozen in mid-roll. The pressure crack across the bay looks like one long wave cresting.....Oh, I wish I could just stay here, and stay, and stay, and stay."*

The ice didn't go out that weekend or the weekend after, and we did miss the event altogether. Someday I hope to be fortunate enough to be counted among those who do experience it, but the beauty of the ice forming and changing is an equally, yet more subtle occurrence that shouldn't be overlooked as less than extraordinary, because it is.

## WEATHER NEWS by Mary Lou Doulin

If you enjoyed winter, well then, you will have no complaints about the conditions that have been the norm throughout the first half of March. March arrived and has been consistent in its "lionesque" characteristics.

March 1 brought a 24-hour storm and nine inches of snow. Blustery conditions were followed by three major storms which continued throughout the second week. When do you remember March having so many below 0 days?

|          |                         |
|----------|-------------------------|
| March 4  | 9 below                 |
| March 5  | 5 below                 |
| March 9  | 3 below                 |
| March 10 | 7 below and so it goes. |

Seems there is no getting rid of this extended wintry pattern. The record-breaking block that is located above in the atmosphere is stubbornly stalled. This is the culprit that is supposedly causing these extreme conditions. Scenery is beautiful, driving and navigating on foot, difficult.

The last half of Feb. was cold and windy and it rained on the 16th. Many days were filled with bright sunshine. Yearly snowfall is over 6 ft. The lake froze on Jan. 21, which was the coldest day and temperatures plummeted to 25 degrees below zero. Snow banks are very high. Technically spring is one week away (Mar. 20)

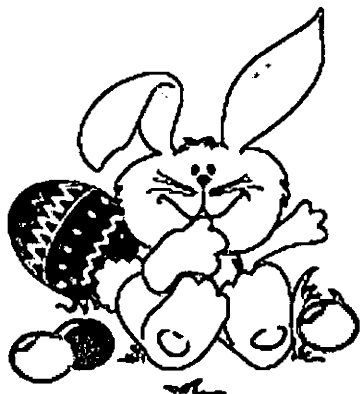
March - April 2005

March

- 19 National Quilt Day  
<[www.nqaquilts.org/index.html](http://www.nqaquilts.org/index.html)>
- 22 1:30pm Senior Citizens Mtg. (p. 2)  
Wildlife Program open to all
- 22 7pm Kindergarten Info Night (p.7)
- 23 1pm Extra Helping Distribution
- 24 7pm Zoning Board of Appeals
- 27 6am Easter Sunrise Service &  
Pancake Breakfast (p. 1)
- 30 7pm Elementary School Play
- 31 7:30pm THS Pops Concert

April

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 3 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 5 7PM Ticonderoga Bd of Ed mtg on Budget (p. 7)
- 6 National Tartan Day <[www.tartanday.com](http://www.tartanday.com)>
- 7 9am 55 Alive Driving Course (p. 2)
- 7 7pm Planning Board
- 10 Salvation Army Founders' Day  
<[www1.salvationarmy.org/heritage.nsf/titles/Founders'\\_Day](http://www1.salvationarmy.org/heritage.nsf/titles/Founders'_Day)>
- 13 7pm 6th Grade Science Fair - TMS
- 14 6:30pm Town Board (*change of date*)
- 15 Income Tax deadline
- 15 Deadline for School Board petitions
- 21 April *Hague Chronicle* mailed
- 21 John Muir Day  
<[www.sierraclub.org/john\\_muir\\_exhibit/john\\_muir\\_day](http://www.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/john_muir_day)>



LOCAL INTEREST WEBSITES

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Lake George Park Commission     | < <a href="http://www.lgpc.state.ny.us">www.lgpc.state.ny.us</a> >                   |
| The Lake George Association     | < <a href="http://www.lakegeorgeassociation.org">www.lakegeorgeassociation.org</a> > |
| Hague Chamber of Commerce       | < <a href="http://www.hagueticonderoga.com">www.hagueticonderoga.com</a> >           |
| Ticonderoga Chamber of Commerce | < <a href="http://www.ticonderogany.com">www.ticonderogany.com</a> >                 |
| Town of Hague                   | < <a href="http://www.townofhague.org">www.townofhague.org</a> >                     |
| Town of Ticonderoga             | < <a href="http://www.townofticonderoga.com">www.townofticonderoga.com</a> >         |
| Silver Bay Association          | < <a href="http://www.silverbay.org">www.silverbay.org</a> >                         |
| Warren County                   | < <a href="http://www.co.warren.ny.us">www.co.warren.ny.us</a> >                     |
| New York State                  | < <a href="http://www.state.ny.us">www.state.ny.us</a> >                             |

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