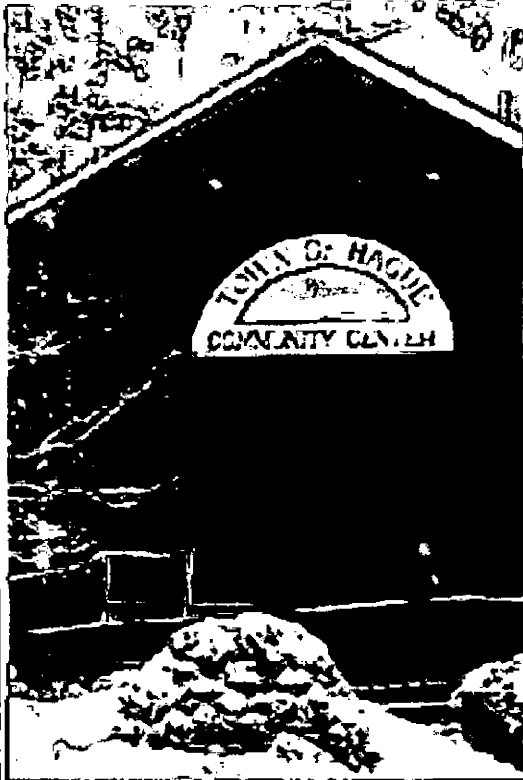


VOLUME 37
NO 12

1972 ~ 2008



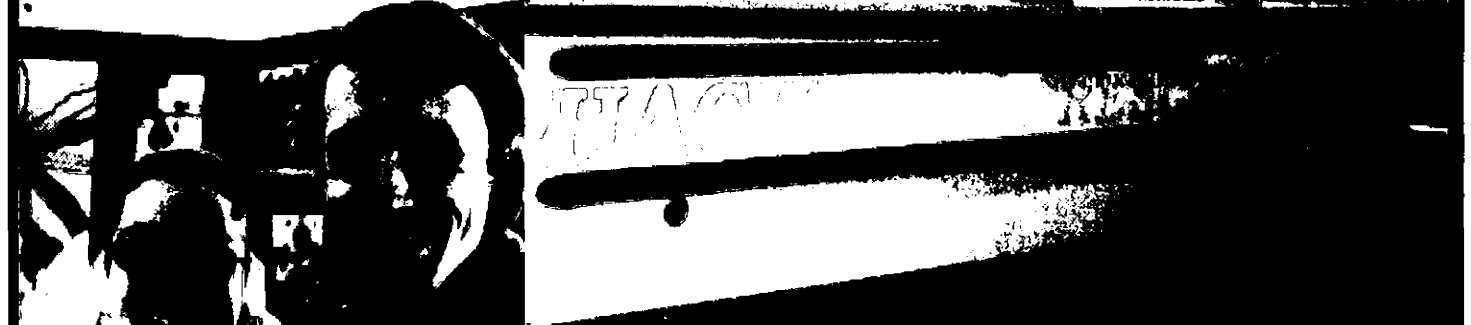
THE HAGUE CHRONICLE



*Hague, New York
on Lake George*

December 2008





HVFD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At the December meeting of the HVFD, the following were elected to key positions for 2009: Chief - Jim Young, 1st Asst. - Ray Mury, 2nd Asst. - James Belden, Lts. - Shawn Perry and Scott Siwek, President - Ray Mury, Vice-President - Martin Fitzgerald, Ambulance Captain - Renee Swinton, 1st Asst. - Lu Megow, 2nd Asst. - Pam Fischer, Capt. Emeritus - Gerry Boyd, Secretary - Joanne Trudeau, Recording Secretary - Diane Trudeau, Treasurer - Lu Megow. New members of the Board of Directors are Diane Trudeau and Steve Young who join Chairman Martin Fitzgerald II, Vice-chairman Joe McCranels, John Barber, Charlie Antonetti and Katie Wells. Fire House rental applications should now be submitted to Food Chair Linda Mury at 543-6550.

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Training needs in various areas continue to be met including a Scott air pac training and a National Grid safety class. Several Fire Police recently attended a certification course in fire safety. In November there were 6 Fire and EMS calls.

We would like to acknowledge a recent generous gift from the Brian and Beverly Sann Fund #2 of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. At the same time we are still far short of meeting our budgeted needs for 2009. Even in the face of current economic challenges we would encourage all residents and property owners to give priority to a year end gift to the HVFD. It will be much appreciated.

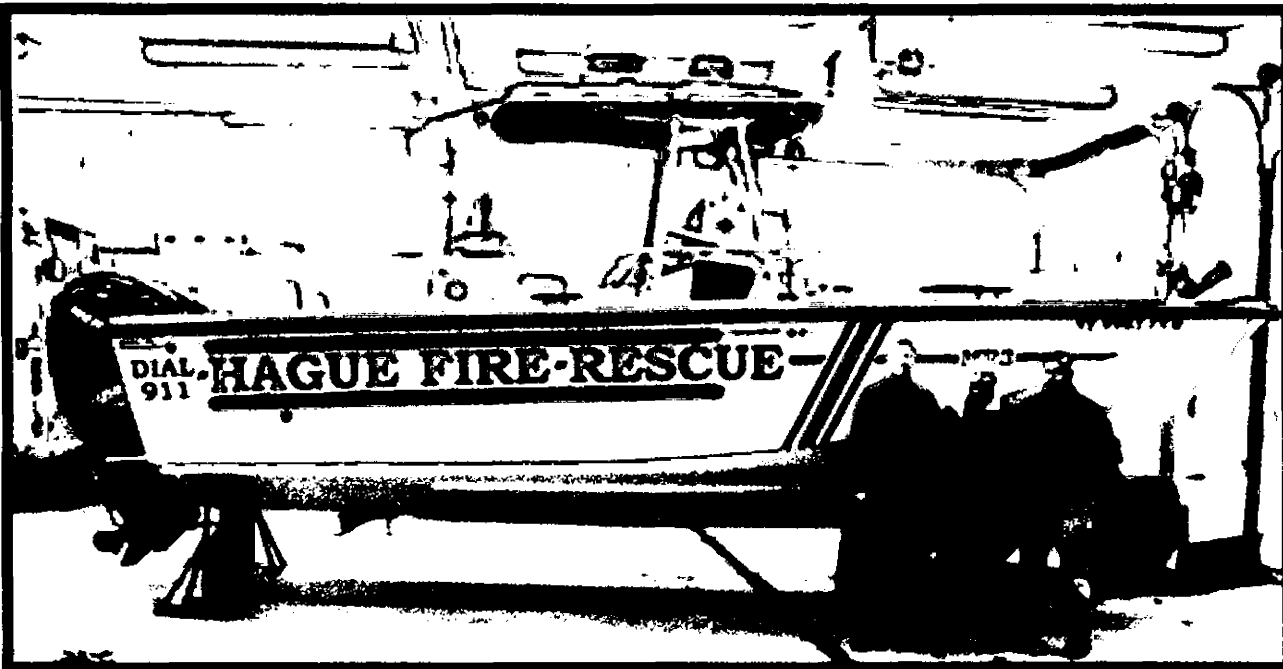
Recent serious motor vehicle accidents prompt us to urge one and all to slow down when driving in winter conditions. We want everyone to have a safe and joyous Christmas holiday. ...Joe McCranels

HVFD FIRE-RESCUE BOAT

The HVFD has a new 27 foot white fiberglass fire and rescue boat equipped with two 225 hp Mercury outboard engines. The large red letters on the side of the boat are safety reflectors and turn bright neon colors when light shines on them (see photo on page 2).

It has all the latest equipment for rescue and fire management. A Safe Boating Course will be offered in the Spring for all members who will operate the new Fire/Rescue boat.

Fortunately the new boat just fits in the middle bay of the fire house saving a significant cost for winter storage. An open house will be scheduled in 2009.



HVFD members John Barber, Jim Young and Ray Mury proudly show the new Fire-Rescue boat.

CHRONICLE COLOR - A FIRST!

The Board of Directors of *The Hague Chronicle* decided to use color for this December issue. To maximize the color space, we are filling pages 1 and 2 with color photos and the articles will be on subsequent pages - a slight change from our usual format. Although we will not be using color on a regular basis due to costs, we hope to use it again for special issues if our readers like it!

Speaking of format - look for some changes in 2009 as Jim Henderson joins our staff as Layout Editor.

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is mailed out by volunteers on the Thursday after the third Tuesday of each month. The news deadline is six days earlier.

Please send news or address corrections to Judy Stock at [<HagueChronicle@nycap.rr.com>](mailto:HagueChronicle@nycap.rr.com).

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

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

Editor/Publisher: Judith Stock (518-543-6517)
Editorial Staff: Pat McDonough

Editor/Publisher, Emerita: Dorothy Henry

12/08

Our website: www.thehaguechronicle.org

OUR COLOR PICTURES

On page 1: Scenes from Hague, December 2008: Community Center, signs, trees decorated for the Holiday in Hague contest, Baptist Church door and Wesleyan Methodist Church creche.

On page 2: 1) HVFD members Ray Mury and Pam Fischer, 2) Hague Cub Scout Pack 73 members Jeremy Fuller, Jack Perkins, Noah Ahern, with Santa Claus, Amos Cooke, Carson Reeves and Nathan Vallee (see article below), 3) Silver Bay volunteer Bonnie Brod with Michael Fitzgerald at the Hague Town Christmas party, 4) Mr. and Mrs. Claus handed out gifts to the children at the party, 5) Erin Finkle and Tom Grayson at the Silver Bay booth in the Park during Holiday in Hague, 6) New boat with Ray Mury and Jim Young (see article on page 3), 7) Frosty on the Seniors gift sale table at Holiday in Hague, 8) At the Baptist Church play - Marguerite West, Pat Hintze, Maureen Cherubini and Kathi Ramant.

HAGUE CUB SCOUTS

Cub Scout Pack 73 of Hague meets at school each week and twice a month at the Hague Fish and Game Clubhouse. The pack held a food drive in the month of November collecting food from door to door and collected over 500 food items collected for the Town of Hague local food Pantry. In December, they sponsored a delicious pancake breakfast with the boys serving the meals (picture above). In January they will hold a very exciting pinewood derby - a race the boys have with cars that they make themselves.

Members of Cub Scout Pack 73 are Noah Ahern, Amos Cooke, Dallas Jordon, J. T. Fuller, Tony Martucci, Jack Perkins, Carson Reeves, Cody Schlogl, Dillon Schlogl, Ty Schlogl, Nathan Vallee and Joseph Wells.

LOWE'S IS COMING

The outside of the building is finished, the sign is up, the new roadway entrance is complete and it looks like they may make their projected January opening date.

AARON'S IS HERE

Although I had never heard of Aaron's, it has been around since the 1950's and there are over 40 of them in New York State alone. The manager of the new Aaron's in Ticonderoga, Wendy Martin, told me that this store complements their other nearby stores in Plattsburgh and Rutland. While the displayed merchandise is minimal, they have access to most major brands of furniture, electronics, appliances and computers. I found this minimalist feature very soothing - a break from the over-the-top number of choices displayed in every other store.

Aaron's will sell you the product outright or "lease" with the intent to buy. When you lease a product you pay a set amount every month and own the product when all the payments are made. The lease fee is similar to what you would pay in interest if you bought the product on credit but there are some advantages over a credit card. Under their lease plan all the prices are listed upfront and will not change. Wendy also told me that they will meet any other store's price on the exact same product - including Walmart.

Aaron's is located in the northwest corner of the building that was formerly Tops at the intersection of 9N and 74. They open at 10 am every day but Sunday. For further information see <shopaaron.com> or call the Ticonderoga store at 518-585-9313.

FRIENDS POINT ROADS CLOSED
The Friends Point Roads will be closed for the 24-hour period from 12 am Wednesday, January 1, 2009 to 12 am Thursday, January 2, 2009.

HAGUE COMMUNITY MEMORY TREE

Each year a felt tree is placed in the lobby of the Community Center containing the names of deceased loved ones or those whom you would like to honor. We are late publishing this reminder this year so any donations should be sent directly to the Community Center, PO Box 509, Hague, NY 12836. Checks must be made payable to the Hague Chamber of Commerce.

All funds raised are donated to the Hague Emergency Squad by the Chamber. A list of honorees will be published in the January issue of The Hague Chronicle.

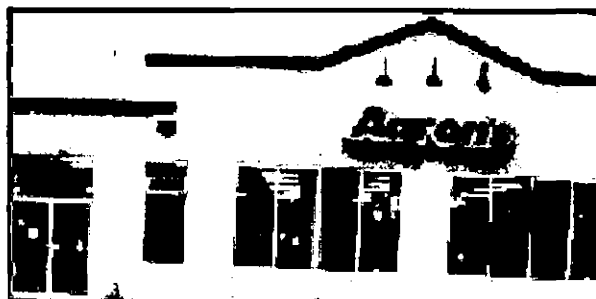
SEWER DISTRICT #2 UPDATE

In spite of cutting through some water and electric lines, the work on the sewer has gone more quickly than anticipated. The work through to Forest Bay has been completed, and the road to Ticonderoga is finally open. Depending on weather they soon may be able to start the digging south where no road closures will be necessary.

REAL ESTATE SALES

The real estate sales for 2008, as recorded in the Warren County Clerk's office are as follows: from Donlon to Myers, \$315,000; from Myers to Renshaw, \$200,000; from More to Linkowski, \$600,000; from Butkus to Van Buskirk, \$485,000; from Pucek to Randolph, \$1,277,500; from Frasier to Zeyak, \$39,900; from Berger to Pucek, \$660,000; from Daggett to Darrin, \$1,575,000; from Engleman to Infantino, \$500,000; from Swanson to O'Leary, \$310,000; from Howard to Herlihy, \$90,000; from Henry to Swanson, \$320,000; from Markert to Markert, \$92,576; from Okonsky to Fox \$235,000; from Bothe to Garry, \$277,500; from Icke to Moran, \$925,000; from Ursuleac to Markor, \$90,000; from Farinick to Brauner, \$1,900,000; from Infantino to Engle, \$630,000; from Marquis to Jentimas, \$900,000; from Gore to Mullin, \$60,000; from Andreassen to O'Leary, \$900,000.

We publish these public records so that residents can have an idea of the market and values. But please note that in several cases there is more than one person in Hague with the same last name.



In lieu of a regular meeting, a training session was held by ZEO Clark and Attorney Dominick Viscardi toward the requirements for Zoning and Planning members. In attendance were Zoning Board members Martin Fitzgerald, II, George Ianson, Lindsay Mydlarz, Glenn McKee and Jon Hanna. From the Planning Board were members Martin Fitzgerald, Sr., EJ Siwek and Bruce Clark. John Brown, Bill Pittman, Pam Peterson and Dick Frasier had already completed their required 4 hours of training for the year.

PLANNING BOARD - 12/4/08

Present were Bruce Clark, acting chairman, Pam Peterson, Martin Fitzgerald Sr. and John Brown. EJ Siwek, Rolly Allen and Dick Frasier were absent.

CLARK (43.5-2-18, 19, & 20) 9015 Lakeshore Drive (Hamlet)

The applicant is going to submit a new plat for a minor subdivision of three lots.

RYPKEMA (24-1-2) 263 Summit Drive (OCI/OCII)

The application for a two lot subdivision of a 200.23 Parcel was approved. Lot 1 will consist of 25.81 acres and Lot 2 will contain 174.42 acres. A 30 foot strip of land will provide access to Lot 2 from Summit Drive.

BENWAY (2-1-21) 990 New Hague Road (OC1)

The applicant is applying for a two lot subdivision of a 12.20 acre lot. If approved Tax Map # 2-1-21 will consist of 11.78 acres with .42 acre to be merged with Tax Map # 11-1-6.1 (Kruger) 17.40 acre lot. The transfer of land is needed for a driveway entrance. A site visit and hearing were set.

HANNA (60.9-1-25) 83 Pine Cove Rd. (TR-1)

The application is for an 869 sq. ft addition to the 2nd story of an existing house was approved.

KOSHEL (43.5-2-15) 9850 Graphite Mountain Rd. (Hamlet)

The Town has received a request for information about reopening a bagel shop at the site of the former Mary's Ice Cream and Bagel shop (which closed at the end of the 2006 season.) The property has been previously approved by the Planning Board for food service business, as an office center and realty office and is assessed as commercial property.

The Board reviewed the Rental Ordinance and recommended that the Town Board submit it to the APA as written.

Supervisor Dan Belden and Board members Rudy Meola, Edna Frasier and Mark Martucci were present and Dick Gladu was absent.

A public hearing was held by the Town Board, acting as the Town Board of Health, on an application by Dicksons for a wastewater variance hearing. Approval was given for a variance in the northeast corner setback from 20 feet to 10.5 ft. It meets all other setback conditions.

The regular meeting then began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for George Hanna, Anna Buck, Carol Paul's mother, Lillian Van Slyck, Betty Ursell and Ruth Allen.

Among the actions and discussions were:

Work will start tomorrow on the CC building and is expected to be done by the end of the year.

The condition of the kitchen was discussed.

Thanks were expressed to Carol Pittman & Diane Farinick for doing the seasonal baskets downtown and to Mike Manning for putting them up.

The Supervisor also thanked Councilman Meola and his committee for decorating the Community Center and to Mike Manning for the decorations in the park.

Monies from the capital funds will be put into 6 month interest bearing accounts.

The APA has modified some of their new regulations.

New wastewater regulations may require an engineer to verify compliance.

Approval was given for \$2400 for a new sign for the Town park. Also for a sign indicating the entrance to the Visitor Center.

Approved a proposal from High Peaks for \$3000 for tree removal.

Anne Johns has resigned as Clerk to the Assessor.

Barb Meiser will be the new clerk.

Jon Hanna was appointed to the ZBA.

Sunset Hill Drive will now be called Sunset Hill Road



Looking Back



Excerpted from the August 1974 issue of *The Hague Chronicle*.

"The other day we received a letter from a long-time Hague resident offering to help with the Hague Chronicle. Without hesitation, we accepted the offer and several days later we got together with the writer, Miss Virginia Shattuck.

Miss Shattuck returned to Hague in 1972 and is now living in a cluster of homes on Holman Hill. Currently she is assisting Miss Beste with secretarial work.

Miss Shattuck has agreed to prepare biographies of some of the famous and interesting people in our town. She began this assignment by arranging an interview with another Shattuck. It follows."

"The word "Shattuck" means - "He who swells at the sign of the little shad (fish)". It is obviously of English origin. The first Shattuck to come to this country was William Shattuck who arrived from England in 1640. His father died at sea.

The family settled in Massachusetts and then spread to New Hampshire and in the 1780's Gideon Shattuck arrived in Ticonderoga where his family settled on a plot of ground on which the Moses-Ludington Hospital now stands.

Glenn Shattuck's father, Henry, arrived in Hague from Ticonderoga in 1880 and Glenn was born in 1898 in the house in which he now lives. It is located at the end of the Shattuck Robbins Road a short distance up from Dodd Hill Road.

The Hague School did not go beyond the eighth grade but having satisfactorily passed the high school regents examination, he went off to Bolton Landing for his high school education. Many trips to Bolton were made on the first pair of racing skates seen on Lake George; on one occasion he skated for his life on ice not more than one-half inch thick.

Among other things, Glenn's father (Henry) was a taxidermist. His shop still stands and is filled with relics of the past including mounted deer heads, owls, fish, etc. Among them is a raven, the only one ever to have been seen in these parts.

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hague Historical Museum received a gift of a showcase which will soon house some of our larger artifacts. We have also been working on oral histories and plans for a mid-winter program. We hope to have a newly-researched exhibit and program in the spring devoted to Flora Sexton and her family. Susan Darrin, a member of our Board, did a wonderful tree decorated with pictures from our archives for the Holiday in Hague competition (partial at right).

If you're making New Year's resolutions, here are two you might consider keeping in 2009:

RESOLVED: I'll visit the Hague Historical Museum and spend an hour reading the many wonderful stories collected and available in binders.

RESOLVED: The next time I have out-of-town visitors, I'll treat them to a visit to the Hague Historical Museum!

We hope to see you there!

I would like to reach back in time to a verse written for Christmas by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. It had been popular during the Civil War and here is a portion of the verse:

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And Thought how, as the day had come
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The Unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on it's way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I raised my head
"There is no peace on earth," I said
"For hate is strong
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fall,
The right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"

I hope that as families gather you would use this opportunity to share family stories so the next generation will have them for their memories.

Gerald Crammond, Town Historian
<historian@townofhague.org>



~SOUNDINGS~

DIED: Betty Scott Ursell, 94, on November 15, 2008 in Syracuse. Betty was brought up in Hague and graduated from Hague Central School. She had worked in the Baldwinsville Public Library for the last 28 years until this October. Betty is survived by her sister, Julia Scott Middleton of Hague and two sons Timothy and Jeffrey and their families.

DIED: George Hanna, 96, of Sabbath Day Point, on November 25, 2008. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Blanche, daughter Suzanne, sons David and Jon, 5 grandchildren, and a brother and sister. George took care of the Sabbath Day Point pump house for many years and he was also a member of the Hague Fire Police for many years.

DIED: Margaret Rowan Harrigan, 87, on November 28, 2008 at Black Mountain, NC. The eldest of four children of Henry M. and Margaret Boyd Rowan, Peg spent summers at the family's home on Rowan Point, Silver Bay, from when she was a teenager until recent years. For several years she was a clinical psychologist at Philadelphia, Chicago, and Sarasota, FL, retiring to NC with her husband the late C. Herbert Harrigan (brother of John Harrigan of Hague).

Peg is survived by her daughters, Barbara Barton of Bellport, Long Island, NY and Carol Kanis of Lancaster, MA.; her son, Bruce Robinson of Kailua, HI; sister, Miriam Mallory of Seattle, WA; brothers, Henry Rowan of Langhorne, PA and William Rowan of Greensboro, NC; as well as eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

DIED: Ruth Pattison Allen, 94 of Ticonderoga, on December 6, 2008, in Ticonderoga, NY. She is survived by 2 sons Rolly and his wife Kathie of Hague, Don and his wife Diane of Madison, Conn., 3 grandchildren Robin Parmenter, David and Tina Allen and 2 great grandchildren Nicole and Jessica Parmenter.

SILVER BAY OFFER

A reminder that Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks is offering a Free Community Membership to year-round residents of Silver Bay, Hague, Ticonderoga and Putnam. The offer, valid Dec. 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009, gives members access to Silver Bay's many winter activities like sledding on two designated sledding hills, hiking and snow shoeing on the 600-acre campus, use of the Fitness Center during operating hours, access to ice fishing off Slim Point, and Spiritual Life programs.

HAGUE HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

The following students from Hague are on the honor roll at Ticonderoga High School for the first marking period of 2008 - 2009:

Grade 12

First Honors – Jared Best, Brendan Carberry, Molly Ginn, Amanda McCoy

Grade 11

First Honors – Jamie Patchett
Second Honors – Jessie Patchett

Grade 9

First Honors – Corey King, William Lawrie, Harley Trudeau
Second Honors – Abigail Gurney

The following students from Hague are on the honor roll at Ticonderoga Middle School for the first marking period of 2008 - 2009:

Grade 8

First Honors – Grace Ginn, Bryana Goetsch, Chelsea Kearns, Karney Manning, Jordan McKee
Second Honors – Michael Ferrer

Grade 7

First Honors – Taylor Coffin, Jeanette Coon, Ty Denno, Sean Lawrie
Second Honors – Kimberly Porter, Rebecca Porter

Grade 6

First Honors – Ian Lawrie

On the Ticonderoga Middle School Sentinel Merit Society for the first marking period of 2008 - 2009 are:

GRADE 6: Ian Lawrie

GRADE 7: Jeanette Coon, Ty Denno, Sean Lawrie, Kimberly Porter

GRADE 8: Bryana Goetsch, Chelsea Kearns, Jordan McKee

Congratulations to all of these excellent students!

HAGUE LOSING TV STATIONS

Time Warner Cable is going to discontinue programming from the Plattsburgh and Burlington television stations for the Hague and Putnam areas. Crown Point and Ticonderoga are not affected but Hague and Putnam are being assigned to the "Albany market" and will lose WCAX and WPTZ to be replaced by Albany channels.

This change will be a big loss for our community which has been getting local news on these stations since the 1950's. While we don't know if there is any recourse since we are told that it is an FCC decision, voicing your concern to Time Warner may help.

The Hague Senior Citizens Club held its annual elections at its November 25th meeting. The officers for 2009 will be President, Madeline Pelkey; 1st VP, Kathi Ramant; 2nd VP, Emily Cobb; Treasurer, Gladys Graser; Secretary, Pat Hintze; Trustees, Bill Pelkey and Ray Snyder.

Club member Chip Devenger spoke about the free winter memberships at Silver Bay for Hague residents. You just need to stop in at the front desk at the Inn and sign up. Their facilities will be open from Monday through Thursday. This is a nice opportunity to take advantage of the Silver Bay facilities and activities during the long winter months.

Our last event of 2008 will be the annual Christmas luncheon and the Hague Senior Citizen of the Year will be announced by the Hague Chamber of Commerce.

HOLIDAY IN HAGUE CONTEST

The Hague Chamber of Commerce sponsored a Christmas tree decorating contest on December 6, 2008 during the 8th Annual Holiday in Hague. There were 13 entries - many of which can be seen on page 1. The judges were Dan Belden, Donna Levenstien, Diane Farinick, Art Hatfield, Jim Rypkema and Lynn Patchett. First Place went to the Silver Bay Association tree decorated by Carolyn Close and Erin Finkle. Second place went to Rich Stout and Vicky Stewart and third place to Alison Craig Real Estate.

The trees were donated after the event. Carolyn and David Dunn thank all the other Chamber members who participated as well as the Hague Fire Department, the Senior Citizens Club and special thanks to Diane Farinick, Sally Rypkema, Cris Ginn, and of course, Mr. and Mrs. Claus!

HAGUE FISH & GAME NEWS

The Hague Fish and Game Club received a very generous donation from Club Member, Eileen Canali. Since the Canali's moved from the area, they donated their 2004 Yamaha Snowmobile, which has since been sold and the proceeds have gone into the building improvement fund.

The Club has presented Certificates of Appreciation to The Hague Market and Ti Barber Shop for their many years of support. The covered shooting range stations are 90% completed with special thanks to Ed Vosburg, Bear-ly Used Furniture for all of his work on this project.

Be sure and mark down February 28 & March 1st on your calendars as these are the dates for The Northern Lake George Fishing Tournament. With the Hague And Ticonderoga Chambers of Commerce as co-sponsors, this years 50th Anniversary contest, with projected prizes and cash awards of over \$3000, promises to be the best ever.

There is a new face in town. Ticonderoga Arts opened its gallery at 84 Montcalm Street in June. The Gallery is a cooperative endeavor of local artists who were seeking a space and an opportunity to exhibit their work.

Featuring the artistic work of a variety of local artists, this Montcalm Street gallery is open Friday and Saturday from 10-4 and Sunday from 10-2. The Gallery welcomes visitors to shop or just view the various samples of art.

Most recently Ticonderoga Arts participated in the Four Museum Holiday Sale on December 5th and 6th. A variety of smaller items were offered for sale at the event including paintings, photography, pottery, and hand work.

Special oil miniatures, hand painted ornaments, and a variety of photographic works and handmade cards will be available at the Gallery during the pre-holiday season.

Please visit the Gallery. If you are an artist, you are invited to join the group and display your talent.

USPS REMINDERS

Can you drive up to your mailbox to get your mail? If not, then the mail carrier can't deliver it! Please make sure to keep your mailbox shoveled out.

A reminder for mailing - envelopes should be sealed, not just folded in - as they can get caught in the sorting machines.

Starting January 1, 2009, the first class mail for PO boxes will be sorted and delivered by 11 am rather than the current 10 am.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The following services will be held in our local churches:

- Catholic Church of the Blessed Sacrament
Christmas Eve at 6:30 pm
- Hague Wesleyan Methodist Church
Christmas Eve at 6:30 pm
- Hague Baptist Church
Christmas Eve at 7 pm
- Helen Hughes Chapel at Silver Bay
Friday, December 19, 2008 at 10:30 am
Christmas Eve at 7 pm



Rain Gardens

What could I possibly be thinking ~ writing an article about Rain Gardens in December? Well, first of all, when I got the idea for this article it was pouring rain outside and 48 degrees. Never mind that two hours later the temperature had dropped 20 degrees and the rain had changed to sleet and then snow! But second, as garden enthusiasts, we utilize the dormancy of winter to make our grand plans for next year's gardens and while working on a writing project for the LGA, I found a new type of garden that really excited me ~ the Rain Garden.

What is a rain garden? A rain garden is a shallow depression in your yard, planted with perennial native plants, wetland and prairie wildflowers, ferns and grasses. It's designed to capture and filter stormwater collected from the rain that falls on rooftops, driveways and patios on your property. After a storm, the rain garden fills with a few inches of water that slowly soaks into the soils, replenishing groundwater and filtering out pollutants instead of becoming stormwater runoff flowing from your property into our streams and the Lake.

Studies have shown that a substantial amount of pollution in our streams and lakes is carried there by runoff from our own yards and gardens in the form of fertilizers, pet wastes, grass clippings and yard debris. Additionally, the tremendous volume of stormwater runoff causes erosion and carries with it debris covering the bottom of streams and the lake with sediment causing deltas like we've experienced at the mouth of Hague Brook and smothering insect and fish eggs, destroying the home and habitat for many animals. The rich source of nutrients flowing with stormwater runoff causes excessive growth of aquatic plants, invasive as well as native. As the weeds die, bacteria feeding on the organic matter deplete the oxygen in the water, which can lead to fish kills. And when our waterways become choked with algae or excessive aquatic plants, it impacts boating, fishing, swimming...all those things that our tourism economy depends on.

Rain gardens can be helpful in alleviating these problems associated with flooding and drainage, as well as becoming wonderful additions to your property, enhancing the beauty of your yard and providing an attractive habitat for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects ~ especially mosquito-eating dragonflies! Going native with the plants is not only beautiful, but is what makes this garden function so effectively. The root systems of native wildflowers, shrubs and prairie grasses typically grow twice as deep into the ground as the plants are tall, while turf grass roots are the same depth as the blade of grass. Because of this, native plants absorb much more water than a typical lawn.

Timing couldn't be better for many of us to think about installing one of these beautiful gardens. As the town begins work on extending the sewer system along Rt. 9N and the digging has begun in Forest Bay and Friends Point, homeowners can take advantage of the work being done on site. Maybe while excavating for hook-ups next spring we can have the shallow depressions dug by machine, saving us the labor and at very little additional cost. With the rain garden we can play an important role in stormwater control while supporting the efforts of the town in their part. Spring is the best time to plant a rain garden, too!

Planning the garden is also fun and the time for that is now. For more help, including a *How to Build a Rain Garden Manual*, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/nps/rg/index.htm>. I'm also wondering if there would be any interest in an informal presentation on rain gardens/planning session later this winter at the Community Center where we could work on planning them together? I can picture mine now.... purple coneflower, butterfly weed, great blue lobelia, columbine, blue flag iris, cinnamon fern, black-eyed Susan, celandine poppy, blazing star, fox sedge, cardinal flower...nice ~ it just stopped snowing.

Weather Report- November 15- December 14, 2008

We are approaching the shortest days of the year. Sunrise is at 7:16 AM and by 4:18 PM it is setting. Winter officially arrives on December 22 but the weather the past several weeks has already told us that fact.

The full moon on December 12 was the biggest and brightest full moon since 1993. The moon's orbit is the closest to the earth. This is called perigee. Also on December 13, the annual Geminid meteor shower will be at its peak, although the brightness of the full moon will diminish the show. The best viewing time is 10 pm until dawn.

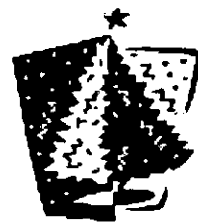
Did you notice the 2 bright planets just after sunset in the southwest sky during the first week of December? They were Venus and Jupiter. On December 5 they were just 5 degrees apart. On December 12 they had moved to 11 degrees apart. When they were at their closest on 12/5 the new moon crescent and the 2 planets formed a frown face (opposite of a smiley face) upside down in the sky. Jupiter is the lower one. Venus is higher up.

If you are interested in the stars, check out www.skyandtelescope.com. Look for "This week's Sky at a Glance."

A summary of the weather for the period: Rain on November 15 and 60 degrees. Then a cold front moved in bringing tornado warnings to Saratoga, Rensselaer, Dutchess and Columbia Counties. By Monday 11/17 we had 1" snow covering the ground. It stayed cold 11/17-11/24. Friday, 11/21, was a cold day with a wind chill to 9 degrees. Actual temperatures were in the 20's daytime and tens at night. 3" of snow fell 11/24-25 before changing to rain as temperatures rose to 40 degrees. Milder temperatures remained with us thru Thanksgiving. A quick storm on 11/30 dropped an inch or two of snow before changing to rain again. Temperatures slowly dropped December 1-6. On Sunday 12/7 temperatures rose to 37 degrees and then dropped all afternoon. By midnight it was 3 degrees. The overnight low was -4, the first below zero for the season. Monday, 12/8 was a bitter cold day with a high of 13 but wind chills were -10. The Lake was smoking all day giving up a lot of its heat.

On 12/10 temperature was 47 at 8 am and .4" rain. By noon it was 38 and still raining. By 9:30 pm it was 24 and lightly snowing. Our first Nor'easter on December 11-12 dumped 6-8" of snow/freezing rain. This time we fared better than Albany. They got ice, falling trees and no power. We send our sympathies to them as we know only too well what the residents are going thru. Saturday and Sunday 12/13 and 14 will be cold but dry.

Merry and a Christmas Happy New Year



December 2008 - January 2009

December

- 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS
- 24 - Jan 4 Schools closed
- 29 3 pm Town Board End of the Year meeting

January

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR
- 1 Friends Pt Roads closed - see p. 4
- 5 6:30 pm Town Board Organizational Meeting
- 8 7 pm Planning Board
- 13 6:30 pm Regular Town Board Meeting
- 16 Final DEADLINE for news for next issue
- 22 Next *Hague Chronicle* mailed
- 22 7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals

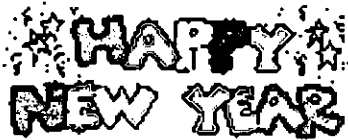
FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Help stock the Hague Food Pantry for the coming season when it is so needed. Canned goods and peanut butter are the most useful items and can be dropped off at the Community Center.

Food is distributed on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 1 - 2 pm or in emergencies. For more information on the Food Pantry, call the Town at 543-6161.



Blessings of this holiday season to all!



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