

### HONORING DANIEL BELDEN



The Community Center was packed with residents and guests wishing Dan well at an afternoon reception in his honor on February 18, 2012 as he retired from public office. Edna Frasier, current Supervisor, introduced friends and colleagues of Dan's and then read a Town Proclamation extending "sincere appreciation to Daniel D. Belden in recognition of over forty

years of outstanding public service to the Town of Hague."

Half of those years of service were as Superintendent of Highways and the rest as Town Supervisor. During those years of service he "was instrumental in securing grant dollars to beautify the town and protect the lake," as well as maintaining a balanced budget for many years with no general Town tax needing to be raised.

Dan's service to Town residents included being available when called upon by any citizen in need as well as his participation in the HVFD, Winter Carnival Committee, Fish & Game Club, Chamber of Commerce, Beste Scholarship Committee, Senior Citizens Club and Rotary Club. His popularity resulted in reelection year after year with over 80% of the votes and many times unopposed.

As Town Supervisor, Dan also served on the Warren County Board of Supervisors where he was instrumental on many committees especially the DPW and Budget. Bill Lamy of the DPW, Lou Tessier from Lake George, Bolton Supervisor Ron Conover and retired County Administrator Joan Parsons all spoke highly of his contributions to Warren County.

Representatives of several Town organizations as well as current and former Board members lauded Dan, some of his friends related amusing memories, and colleagues at the Community Center, including Bertha Dunsmore, Diane Trudeau and ZEO Cathy Clark, wished him well. Dominick Viscardi, Attorney for the Town, was one of many who noted Dan's capabilities when it came to fixing things like plumbing and said, "Dan has won the respect of the community. He has a fine mind and a fine set of hands."

Although Dan's devoted wife of fifty years, Janice, could not be at the reception due to a recent health problem, many proud family members were in attendance. Tina Eakers, Dan's daughter, spoke lovingly of the family's high regard for him and their pleasure at the wonderful reception.



### 2012 HAGUE WINTER WEEKEND

No snow, no ice, no problem. The Winter Weekend was filled with activities that brought the Town together. The Snow Queen Pageant kicked off the weekend on Friday night, February 17, 2012 at the Community Center. The audience enjoyed many raffles and baked goods which helped support the Pageant. The young ladies exhibited their talents and charm which were judged by a panel consisting of Gladys Rockwell, Maureen Cherubini and Allison Kaupelis.



Those participating were Kiela Jordon, 10, daughter of Dave and Karla Jordon of Hague; Fallon Kennedy, 11, daughter of Brian Kennedy of North Warren; Caitlin Myers, 10, daughter of Julie and Rick Myers of Hague who earned the title "Duchess"; Kacey Fish, 12, daughter of Bobbi Jean and Todd Fish of Hague; Kaylee Coon, 11, daughter of Alisha Coon of Hague who earned the title of "Princess"; Madison Fish, 9, also daughter of Bobbi Jean and Todd Fish; and Delaney Reeves, 8, daughter of George and Amy Reeves of Ticonderoga who was crowned the "Queen".



Tom Haskell with daughter Mara



Bobbi Jean Fish and Katy Wells

The Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) Firehouse was the venue for the always delicious Fireman's breakfast buffet on Saturday morning followed in the evening by the Beste Scholarship Dinner (prepared by Silver Bay staff) and the Northern Lake George Rotary Auction. Rotary President Chip Devenger presented a check for \$500 to Sal Santaniello, Beste



## ACTIVITES OF THE SENIOR CLUB

The Seniors held one of their favorite events in early February - Baked Potato Day - with all the toppings that you could think of to put on them. In addition we had Chili, Nachos and Cheese and each person received a Surprise Valentine Treat Bag - delightfully made up by club member Lee Dane.

The highlight of the evening was guest speaker Ginger Henry Kuenzel who presented her program on the Outboard Boat Regattas - held in the 50's - 60's in Hague on Lake George. It was a wonderful presentation and the Seniors were very interested to see the pictures and learn the history of things that were done here in the past years. Judy Stock even noticed her Dad in one of the pictures and then herself next to him! We followed the program with delicious dessert and friendly conversation.

The next event was a road trip to see the Saranac Lake Ice Castle, then on to some shopping followed by a very nice lunch at the ADK Cafe in Keene. There was good food, fun company and of course a few good laughs.

The regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 1:30 pm. We will be playing Senior Bingo so be sure to come on out and win some interesting gifts.

On March 15, 2012 at 4 pm we will have a St. Patty's Day Party where we can all be Irish for a day. So come on out and join us for a dinner of Corned Beef and Cabbage with Potatoes, followed by a movie with popcorn and candy.

All Seniors (anyone 50 years of age or older) are invited to join us at the Community Center for these fun events.

... Pat Hintze



Seniors at Saranac Lake Ice Palace ... photo by Judy Stock

## HVFD INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

At our most recent meeting, the Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) inducted Brandy Lyn Lastowski, Jonathon Yerdon and Teresa Medina as members, with Harley Trudeau and Karney Manning as Junior members. We welcome them all to our ranks and are happy with the addition of so many new young members. Our doors are open to more, so if you have an interest, contact any active Fireman for information on joining .

The regional head of Mountain Lakes Services addressed our EMS members on February 9, 2012 and various training of EMS calls were handed out at that time. Also, the district EMS Symposium, referred to in our last article, and attended by several of our members was considered a huge success.

In January, there were 9 Fire calls and 3 EMS calls using 68 man hrs. A Radio and Siren check occurred on February 7th with an Equipment Check following.

While it does not look as though our end of Lake George will likely freeze this winter, some bays and nearby ponds certainly will, so we urge that anyone venturing out on frozen ice surfaces use extra precaution, especially this year of unseasonable conditions. With warm days and cold nights of late, watch out for icy patches on the roads. ... Joe McCranels

## ICE FISHING TOURNEY CANCELLED

Due to the unfortunate lack of ice, this year's Northern Lake George Ice Fishing Tournament has had to be cancelled. Even if by some slim chance the Lake does ice up, it would be unsafe for snowmobiles and ATV's which makes a key feature of our contest not possible. These vehicles are used by the Hague Sno-Goers to go around to the fishermen and pick up their catch.

With the format changed this year from prizes to the winners to Cash prizes, the contest would have brought many fishermen into our Town. There's always next year !!

... Steve Ramant

## LGPC WINTER WARM UP

The LGLC will host its second Winter Warm Up on March 10, 2012 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Lake George Recreation Center in Lake George Village. There will be ongoing nature crafts, animal presentations, hot chocolate and s'mores as well as broomball. Breakfast goodies will be available from 9 - 10 am and hot soups and bread will be available from 11:30 am - 1 pm. For more information contact Sarah Hoffman at 518-644-9673 or email <shoffman@lgc.org>.

**THE HAGUE CHRONICLE** is mailed out by volunteers on the Wednesday after the third Tuesday of each month. The News deadline is five days earlier. Please send news or address corrections to the Publisher, Judy Stock at <HagueChronicle@nycap.rr.com>.

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(Continued from page 1)

Scholarship Chairman, who introduced the current award recipients. The award for Dillon Lafferty, who attends Tompkins Cortland Community College, was accepted by his mother, Karen Lafferty. Also receiving an award was Kaley Manning, daughter of Debbie Manning and the late Mike Manning. Kaley is a Dean's list student at the College of St. Rose majoring in Childhood Education.

On Sunday, over 100 brave souls took the Polar Bear Plunge from the Trout House Village dock while another hundred cheered them on from the shore. Proceeds of over \$3,700 were collected to benefit WOKO's Big Change Roundup for the Vermont Children's Hospital at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT.



Local Dream Team



Super Jumpers

Winners of the annual Chili Bake Off at the HVFD were Carol May (first), Tom Denno and Sandy Rypkema (tied for second) and Brenda Rider (third). Live Music was provided by Calamity Rock.



### COMMUNITY BUDGET FORUM HELD

Ticonderoga Schools Superintendent John McDonald led a budget forum that was open to any community member on February 15, 2012. He gave an overview of some district statistics and explained the current income restraints that the district is under resulting in a possible 1.7 million dollar shortfall for the 2012 – 2013 budget year.

Several people took advantage of this opportunity to have input into the ways in which the problem could be addressed. Participants [including parents, senior citizens, taxpayers with no children in the district and current or former teachers] were seated at various tables around the HS Cafeteria. All responses were recorded to questions about the role of the school district in the community, strengths and weaknesses in the district and additional ways to raise revenue.

Some comments from Hague residents at the meeting reflected a belief that finding revenue was part of a solution but cutting expenses was more important.

Mike Cherubini of Hague is a member of the Budget Advisory Committee and will have the current information as the budget process continues.

### TENTH MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

That's right everyone! Saturday, May 26, 2012 will be the tenth year for Hague's Memorial Day Celebration - a record for which we all should be proud. Sponsored by the Hague Senior Citizens Club, this tradition was revived after a thirty-year hiatus. The Community working together has made this a reality. So, mark your calendars and start planning now. Let's make this tenth year an extra special DAY TO REMEMBER in Hague.

For the FUNFEST at the beach, we will be seeking crafters, food concessions, demonstrations of interest, etc. For the PARADE all are welcome to join the march – age is no barrier! Family floats, groups, friends, clubs, businesses, pets, clowns, classics, etc. etc. Prize categories will be published next month. Can't wait to see what you all come up with!

The Parade Committee will commence weekly meetings on Monday, March 5, 2012 at the Community Center at 9:30 a.m. Anyone interested in being involved in the planning process is welcome to join us. Senior Club membership is not a requirement. Any suggestions or new ideas are also welcome.

For information regarding Memorial Day, please contact Madeline Pelkey at 543-6130, Michael Cherubini at 543-6463 or Emily Cobb at 543-6325. ... Madeline Pelkey

### HAGUE FISH & GAME HOLDS CLINIC

On January 23, 2012, the Hague Fish & Game Club held an ice fishing clinic for students at the Ticonderoga Middle School conducted by John Sheehan and Shawn Hayes. There were 3 classes on basic ice fishing techniques and ice safety; one each for the 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Then on January 24th the 6 graders went out on the ice in 2 sessions on Lake Champlain at the Ti Ferry to get a practical experience. The students were greeted by members of the Hague Fish & Game Club and given ice creepers, rods and bait to use. The kids had



Photo by Al Rider

a ball as they caught Perch, Crappie, Bluegills and Pumpkin-seeds and their fishing ability really shined. The 7th graders fished on February 14th and the 8th graders on the 15th – all having a great time and catching many fish.

In other news, the Club proudly presented a \$100 check to the Snow Queen Pageant and a \$100 check to the Beste Scholarship Fund for this year's Winter Weekend.

Stop out and see how the Fish & Game Clubhouse looks with the new insulated "log" siding on the Clubhouse exterior. Join up and have some fun – the range is always open for member's use. ... Steve Ramant

## TOWN BOARD MEETING – 2/14/12

Supervisor Edna Frasier and Board Members Marty Fitzgerald, Mark Martucci, Rudy Meola and Steve Ramant were all present.

A moment of silence was held for Frank Fowler, Mary Connors, Mary Louise Meehan, James Howard and Vern Rockwell.

### Committee Reports:

**Assessor & Justice (Meola/Ramant)** – Councilman Meola reported that he and Supervisor Frasier had a meeting with representatives of the Forest Bay Property Owners. The Town Board had ruled against waiving the penalty and it was paid. The property is now no longer under the Fisher Act (regarding forest land).

**Buildings & Grounds/Community Center/Enhancement (Fitzgerald/Martucci)** – Councilman Fitzgerald reported on several maintenance issues that he has worked on and have been or are being addressed including the furnace, boiler, oil tank, heating zones and water. He thanked the Highway Department for insulating their pipes to save on energy.

Councilman Martucci reported that he and Supervisor Frasier met with Elan Planners with regard to work at the boat dock and parking lots. The plans are 98% complete and a copy is in the Supervisor's office where they can be seen.

**Finance & Insurance (Meola/Martucci)** – The Board approved a motion to send out a RFP (request for proposal) for the Town's liability insurance to the current carrier and two others. The proposals will be due March 10th as the current policy ends May 1st.

Councilman Meola reported that the Town has \$1.9 million in a money market account and the CD rates are so low that the money will be left there and the money will also be more readily available.

**Highway (Martucci/Fitzgerald)** – Councilman Martucci reported on activities of the Highway Department. He noted that members of the department have been sanding driveways for those unable to do so using their own trucks as Town equipment cannot be used for this according to law.

The Board approved selling the 1999 F-550 truck and will advertise it in *Glens Falls Post Star* and *Times of Ti*. Sealed bids are due by March 12, 2012.

**Museum & Historian (Frasier/Ramant)** – Town Historian Jerry Crammond addressed the Board with his concerns about the preservation of Town records. He noted in his year-end report that he would like to see the vault expanded to include atmosphere control. Supervisor Frasier appointed a committee of Councilman Fitzgerald and Town Clerk Manning to work with him on this issue. Crammond also mentioned that the requirements of the State for Town Historian should be looked at.

**Personnel (Fitzgerald/Meola)** – Councilman Meola noted that a consistent policy was needed for smoking on Town property. The Buildings and Grounds committee will look into it.

**Planning/Zoning/Stormwater (Meola/Fitzgerald)** – ZEO Clark emphasized to the Board that attention needs to be

paid to the current regulations being promulgated by the LGLC which she addressed in her written report. With the need for monitoring boats for invasive species, the Town Boat Launch will have to be either closed or have staff available which could be costly for the Town.

ZEO Clark also alerted the Board to the difficulties the Wilson subdivision was having with LGPC requirements on stormwater. At some point Hague decided not to monitor its own stormwater so it falls under the LGPC. There was some discussion about the effects and how it could be changed.

The 15th Annual Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference will take place in Lake Placid on March 20 - 21, 2012. For complete information see <[www.apa.ny.gov/Local\\_Government/index.html](http://www.apa.ny.gov/Local_Government/index.html)>.

**Recreation & Promotion & Youth (Ramant/Meola)** – Councilman Ramant gave an extensive report on the projects and issues he has been working on since becoming a Board member on this committee and the Town Park committee.

>The Hague Chamber of Commerce has contracted with Lake George Village for a spot in the Visitor Center including a pamphlet rack, map light and wooden sign.

>Councilman Ramant contacted the ADK Brewery owner about Hague's Oktoberfest and his company getting the beer permit, arranging insurance and providing beer for sale. Ramant then contacted Graham Bailey who has since arranged with the company to reserve the Oktoberfest dates.

>The DEC is considering closing Rogers Rock Park in the off-season due to vandalism. Ramant spoke to a representative about keeping it open so residents would be able to use the cross-country ski trails and have access to the Lake for ice fishing. It was agreed that these areas can remain open this year and probably next year also.

>Ramant has worked with AT&T for cell tower signal corrections which has helped local service. He reported that AT&T will, at no cost to the Town, install a receiver and 2 repeaters in the Community Center for improved service there with some service also going outside the building.

>Ramant spoke with the Verizon Regional Director and will call again to see what can be worked out in the near future.

>The Music in the Park series is all set for 2012.

>Applications are still being taken for lifeguards, dock attendants and visitor center personnel.

>Ramant is working with the DEC on a new permit to cull geese from the Town Park using an airgun which will dispatch the geese but not be a disturbance to the neighbors.

Councilman Meola reported that he will attend the next meeting of the Warren County Youth Bureau.

Councilman Fitzgerald inquired about the Board's interest in the sliding hill on the former sand pit at Sabbath Day Point. The Town is still interested if funds can be found and Fitzgerald will work on it. The area could be used for sliding, cross country trails, hiking trails and picnic areas for example.

## PLANNING BOARD – 2/2/12

**Sewer Districts #1 & # 2 (Frasier/Meola)** – The committee met with Paul Belden of the Sewer Treatment Plant and went over a list of things that are needed which they approved. Supervisor Frasier said that Paul has been very conscientious and is dealing with the odor problem. Councilman Meola, being new to this committee, said he had not been made aware before of the maintenance problems. He noted that there is a “tremendous amount that needs to be done. The sewer fees are reasonable but may have to increase to do maintenance that has not been done.”

**Town Park & Beautification (Ramant/Martucci)** – Councilman Meola noted that the flags at the Town Park need to be taken care of or replaced.

### The Board approved:

Use of the Visitors Center by the Hague Senior Citizens from April 15 through Memorial Day weekend and for the week of Americade. It is needed for storage of white elephant items.

The Youth Contract (\$1,000) with the Town of Ticonderoga to provide “services to youth ... designed to prevent juvenile delinquency and promote youth development.”

Funding (\$5,900) to CHA (Clough Harbor Associates) for continued monitoring of the landfill closure.

Releasing funds from the budget (\$4,000) for marketing for the Lake George Open Swim.

A resolution to declare a “Type II Action under SEQRA for the proposed design and construction of the Hague Town Dock and Downtown Parking Improvement project.”

A resolution relative to the audit of books. All Board members did the necessary audits.

Enthusiastically and unanimously, a resolution extending appreciation to former Supervisor Daniel Belden. A reception in his honor will be held on February 18, 2012.

At a Special Town Board meeting on 1/26/12, all members were present to authorize Supervisor Frasier to sign a grant application for funds toward solar panels.

## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – 1/26/12

Chairman Robert Goetsch and Board members Chris Navitsky, Maureen Cherubini, Jon Hanna, Ray Snyder, Lindsay Mydlarz and Bill Pittman were all present.

### MORGAN (93.8-1-25) 8 Delaware Ave. (TR-1)

The owner is requesting an extension of one year to replace a nonconforming structure which was destroyed by snow load on February 14, 2007. A DEC spill remediation prevented him from replacing the building within four years from the date of destruction. In October 2010 the ZBA approved a one year extension for Mr. Morgan to replace the building, effective February 2011.

The ZBA has granted an additional one year extension due to special circumstances as there is some dispute about the deeds between Mr. Morgan and the Hacker Boat Co.

Chairman EJ Siwek and Board members Dick Frasier, Martin Fitzgerald, Bruce Clark, Mike Cherubini, Pam Peterson and Bob Whitaker were all present. Attorney for the Town Dominick Viscardi was also present.

### COMMONS (26.10-1-37.1) 31 Commons Way (TR-1R)

The Board approved a request for a modification of a delineation line on a previously approved two-lot subdivision in order to correct a map.

### GRIFFIN-HARRISON (43.17-1-14 and 15) 36 Jenkins Point Drive (TR-1)

The Board approved a request for a lot line change of 1810 sq. ft. on each of their two parcels. The lot line change is necessary to remove an encroachment of an existing cottage to a property line.

### FOREST BAY PROPERTY OWNERS (26.6-1-18) Forest Bay Rd North (TR-1R)

The Board approved a request for a lot line change of a 9147.6 sq. ft. parcel. Part of the land will be merged with Thompson (26.6-1-19) and the other part will be merged with Toner (26.6-1-17). The property owners were polled before the sale of the parcel and were in favor of the proposal by a vote of 30 – 5.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation.

## TAX EXEMPTION DEADLINE MARCH FIRST

Primary residence homeowners should contact the Assessor’s Office (543-6161) to see if they are eligible for the partial property tax exemptions.

The Senior Citizens’ exemption is for primary residence homeowners over age 65 with the following new household income ceilings: County and Town - \$23,700 (Includes sliding scale), School - \$30,399 (Includes sliding scale). This exemption must be renewed each year.

The Basic STAR exemption is for primary residence homeowners, regardless of age and income below \$500,000. This exemption does not have to be renewed each year once the first application is approved.

The Enhanced STAR exemption is for primary residence homeowners over age 65 (during year 2012) with household income less than \$79,050. This exemption must be renewed each year, unless the owner participates in the Optional Income Verification Program.

A Veterans’ exemption is for those in military service during wartime periods.

Details and applications are available Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 3 pm. The filing deadline is March 1, 2012.

## TI ALUMNI BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The Ticonderoga Alumni Association will hold a Bowling Tournament on March 10 – 11, 2012. The starting times are 12 noon and 3 pm both days. There will be 2 divisions, one for handicapped bowlers and one for everyone else. Teams can be adult, children, or mixed. The cost is \$16 for adults and \$12 for children which includes shoes and three games. Cash prizes will be awarded to adults and gift cards to children.

A 50/50 drawing will be held each day and raffle tickets for a bowling ball will be available. Team sign-ups for the tournament are available in advance or at the door. Please contact Joyce Cooper at 585-2640 for more information or to register for the tournament.

## RACES FOR CYCLISTS IN JUNE

Centurion New York will hold one of its four events this year in the Lake George area. During the weekend of June 22 - 24, 2012, serious cyclists and recreational riders alike can enjoy the races which will include riding through Hague. For more information see <[www.CenturionCycling.com](http://www.CenturionCycling.com)>.

Cyclists can also enjoy the North Country Triathlon which will be held the following weekend in Hague. For more information on this event see <[www.northcountrytri.com](http://www.northcountrytri.com)>.

## ROMANESQUE AND GOTHIC ART LECTURE

Mark your calendar! On February 23, 2012 at 7 pm, Richard Stout of Hague will once again take us on a fascinating journey back in history – this time to the Romanesque and Gothic period. If you haven't yet attended any of Rich's lectures, you're in for a real treat. There will also be plenty of time for questions and discussion. This is a great opportunity to ward off cabin fever and get together with others from our community – while at the same time expanding your knowledge about and appreciation of cultures from years gone by. The lecture will be held in the Uptown Café on Graphite Mt. Rd. (Rt 8). Feel free to bring refreshments if you like.

... Ginger Kuenzel

## MASONS AND STARS HOLD TURKEY DINNER

A public 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, February 24, 2012, at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street, Ticonderoga (across from the Stone House).

Take-outs will be available from 4:30 - 5 pm, and dine-in is 5 - 6:30 pm in the downstairs dining hall. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children 12 years old and under.

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

A free Family Movie ("Dolphin Tale" is planned) Night is being held Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 6 pm sponsored by the Hague Baptist Church on Graphite Mt. Rd. (Rt 8). The event will be held in the Fellowship Hall, connected to the Church. This evening of fun is open to any family and popcorn, candy, and drinks will be provided.

## BAPTIST CHURCH LADIES FELLOWSHIP

The Ladies Fellowship, a group of fun, friendly, faithful women who care about others, and who would like to get to know other women in our area, will meet on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at 10:30 am. The group is sponsored by the Hague Baptist Church and meets in the Fellowship Hall for food, activity, and scriptures relevant to a theme.

The theme for this month is "What's in your Purse?" For outreach support, those who want to contribute to a service project can bring a new or gently-used purse or tote bag, or some ladies' necessities (hairholders, socks, toothpaste, lotion, etc.) to put in them.

Call 543-8899 or 543-8060 for more information or just show up.

## TREE AND SHRUB SEEDLINGS

The Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District has order forms available online for the 2012 Tree and Shrub seedling orders. They have a wide variety of native trees and flowering shrubs as well as bird, bat and wood duck houses among other items.

You can order by phone (518-623-3119) or online <[www.warrenswcd.org](http://www.warrenswcd.org)>. The deadline is March 9, 2012 and orders can be picked up from their office at 394 Schroon River Rd., Warrensburg, NY 12885.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to these Hague students who are on the Honor Roll for the Second Marking Period at the Ticonderoga Middle School.

**GRADE 6:** *First Honors:* Gilbert Cox, Kacey Lynn Fish, Caiden Meehan

**GRADE 7:** *First Honors:* Kaylee Coon, Nicholas Fitzgerald, Samantha Holmberg, Connor Lawrie

*Second Honors:* Logan Jordon

**GRADE 8:** *First Honors:* Cassandra Martucci, Cassidy McKee

## FOOD, FILM, AND FELLOWSHIP AT SILVER BAY

The next film in the movie and fellowship series will be "Saving Grace," a Sundance Audience Award-winning comedy from director Nigel Cole starring Brenda Blethyn. The movie will be shown on March 9, 2012 at Brookside Community House on the Silver Bay Campus after a 6 pm dinner of pizza or soup. A suggested donation is \$5 and everyone is welcome. Please RSVP to Chip Devenger at <[cdevenger@silverbay.org](mailto:cdevenger@silverbay.org)> or 543-8833, x 215.

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) is offering scholarships to high school seniors, including home-schooled students, in the Lake George watershed including Hague and Ticonderoga. Visit <[www.lglc.org](http://www.lglc.org)> for more details.



## HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Here's something to put on your calendar: On Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 2 pm we are sponsoring a program presented by Christine Campeau of the Adirondack Museum. Her program, "Wilderness Cure", will tell the tale of the Saranac Lake tuberculosis sanitarium at the turn of the 19th century. Christine is School Programs Manager and Educator at the Museum where she has been on the staff for fourteen years. This program is being jointly sponsored by the Hague Senior Citizens Club. We hope you'll take this unique opportunity to learn more about our Adirondack history from an expert! See you there!

### More on Rattlesnakes

The Davis men we spoke of here last month, whether Ruben, Isaac or "Mint", made a name for themselves hunting and bagging rattlesnakes. They also made money! So abundant were the snakes years ago that farmers in the area killed them by the hundreds as they worked their fields. In 1884 the *Ticonderoga Sentinel* reported that the rattlesnake population at Lake George was increasing. "One farmer killed over fifteen of them during haying. A bounty ought to be affixed for their killing."

In 1945 Gillette Bartlett of Sabbath Day Point was quoted as relating there was a time "when rattlesnakes were so prevalent on Tongue Mountain that a hunter of the reptiles would bring in as many as 20 a day for a bounty of \$3.50 each." That was pretty good money! Business was so good that there began to be a bootlegging problem – that is folks were killing snakes outside the region and bringing them to towns like Hague for the bounty of \$2.50/snake at the time. In 1940 the *Glens Falls Times* reported that the Warren County Supervisors had passed a resolution requiring that anyone applying for a bounty would have to provide a certificate of title to the snake "just as if he were attempting to dispose of an automobile". The Supervisors were in a quandary because while they wanted to reduce the rattlesnake population in order to encourage tourism, they didn't want to get stuck for an outlay of cash for the rattles and they didn't want Warren County to get a reputation for being more populated with rattlers than it actually was!

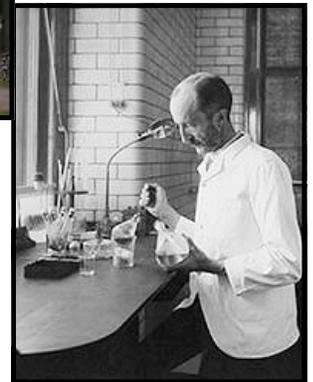
Thomas F. Lonergan, Sr., a local historian, wrote in the *Sentinel* on February 8, 1940, that Elisha Belden had settled in our area in earlier times. "He was known as 'Father Elisha' and was a great hunter and also famous for hunting rattlesnakes. However, one day he did not return from his rattlesnake hunt and a search for him on the mountain revealed him sitting on a rock frightfully swollen and blackened with poison – dead. A snake cut to pieces with his jackknife lay by his side. As he had tried to doctor the snake bite by the pieces of the snake itself."



An on-line site tells us the timber rattlesnake averages 3-4 ½ feet, likes deciduous forests and rocky terrain, and is carnivorous, highly poisonous and very dangerous. It also tells us this viper is threatened in New York State due to "loss of habitat and indiscriminate killing". Perhaps all those bounties had their intended effect. Nevertheless, let's not risk Elisha's fate – be watchful when you're hiking.  
... Pat McDonough



*The Administration Building at Saranac Lake*



*Dr. E.L. Trudeau in Saranac Lab, 1895*

Our markets researchers have had their first two meetings and are hot on the trail of historical information and local lore about the many markets that have come and gone in our community. We've had some wonderful responses from folks with stories and it's not too late to get your story in too! What do you know of the shops that resided where today's "Uptown" is? Did you shop at Fitzgerald's meat market on Route 9N? Do you recall the Hoyts and their years at the market? Have any pictures? Drop us a line at PO Box 794, Hague, NY 12836 or email to <haguehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com>. We'll be waiting!  
... Pat McDonough

### FORT TICONDEROGA GARDEN SYMPOSIUM

Nancy Scarzello, local herbalist and nature news contributor to *The Hague Chronicle*, is one of the five featured presenters at an upcoming Fort Ticonderoga/King's Garden program, "Planting the Seeds of Knowledge for Home Gardeners". Nancy will speak on "The Gourmet Garden: Culinary Herbs & Edible Flowers". The program will be on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at the Mars Education Center. As Nancy says, this is a great way to quench your thirst for getting back in the garden. Lunch will be catered by Hague's own Hague Market! For more information you may call the Fort at 585-2821 or by visiting them at <www.fort-ticonderoga.org>.

## ~SOUNDINGS~

**DIED:** Cornelius "Neil" Rypkema, 86, of Wyckoff, NJ and Silver Bay, NY on January 18, 2012. Neil was a long time visitor of Silver Bay since 1960. He loved Lake George, skiing, golf and the many outdoor activities that the area offers. He is survived by 6 children, 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**DIED:** Mary Louise Meehan, 74, on January 31, 2012 at her family home. She was the daughter of the late Frank H. and Evelyn (Clark) Meehan and was a graduate of Hague High School. For many years, Mary Louise worked as a LPN at Moses-Ludington Hospital in Ticonderoga, after graduating from Albany School of Nursing. She is survived by her brother, Norrell J. Meehan and his wife, Jeannette, of Ticonderoga and by many nieces and nephews.

**DIED:** Frank R. Fowler, 83, of Green Valley, Arizona and Ticonderoga, NY on January 14, 2012. Frank is survived by his wife, Ann Fowler; his sister, Jacqueline Ambra; his children Diane Fowler, Jacqueline Byers (Rob), Joan Thomas (Bill) and Frank Fowler II (Jane); his stepson Roger Wickes (Carolyn) and ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A Marine veteran, he lived in Hague for many years and was active in area organizations.

### STUART KELLEY ATTAINS SWIMMING GOAL

by Bob Whitaker



*Stu Kelley exits Lake George at Slim Point*

The temperature at 11 am on February 6, 2012 was relatively mild for C. Stuart Kelley of Silver Bay to complete his goal of swimming in Lake George on all 366 days of the year. On that day, the air temperature was a balmy 40° F, with a water temperature of 38° F, and a group of friends gathered to watch Stu walk into Lake George from Slim Point on the Silver Bay campus to take his final swim of 366 such swims, all on different dates of the year.

Over a 21-year period, Stu meticulously documented each swim with the air and water temperature as well as other observations to remember the days by. For example, he learned that it is unexpectedly pleasant to swim while snow is falling, that you are energized for hours after a winter swim, that water freezes to your glasses in cold weather, and that just-forming skim ice is paper thin, brittle, and will cut your thighs as you walk through it for that energizing winter swim. Sharing a bubbler area with a disgruntled duck was a surprise to both.

So what constitutes a swim, especially in the winter? Stu's definition is that the swim could not be accomplished using either a wet suit or dry suit, he had to be completely buoyant and unsupported in the water, and had to move under his own power, taking a minimum number of strokes, three as a minimum in the winter, more during other times of the year. The

coldest day he encountered was +6° F with a water temperature of 33° F. Liquid water doesn't get much colder than that. The warmest Lake George water he swam in was 79° F with an air temperature of 95° F, and that most definitely was not a warming spell in February.

Stu obviously likes a challenge. He has run marathons, is an Adirondack 46er, and had previously swum in Lake George in every month. So swimming on every day seemed like a real personal challenge, one that he had never heard of anyone accomplishing before.

Stu has a long family history in Hague. His mother worked at the Silver Bay Association in the 1920s. She and her husband vacationed with their family, camping at Rogers Rock or staying at Trout House or Silver Bay before buying property in the 1950s. Stu met his wife Melissa while working at Silver Bay; they have two children and three grandchildren who all visit Silver Bay every summer, continuing the family's love for the Lake and its surroundings. Stu and Melissa split their time between Hague and Virginia, where Stuart was a physicist for the Department of Defense prior to retirement. During his swims, Melissa served as a loyal assistant, draping his warm clothes over her arms for rapid retrieval after each swim. Melissa sensibly restricts her swimming to those post-golfing days when the summer temperature drifts into the 90s.

So, what's next on Stu's horizon? He isn't saying, but he does indicate it won't involve too many more February swims in Lake George. We've observed that he and Melissa appear to be recording dates spent on the highest point of each state of the union.

### TICONDEROGA GOES TO SEA

The Ticonderoga Historical Society will present a program by Trustee Robert Lamb entitled Ticonderoga Goes to Sea, a history of the United States Naval ships named Ticonderoga. The photo/lecture program will be held at the Hancock House, 6 Moses Circle, Ticonderoga on Friday, March 9, 2012, at 7 pm.



*USS Ticonderoga CG47*

The five *USS Ticonderoga* ships have an extraordinary legacy having served in the Battle of Lake Champlain in 1814, the Civil War, World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War. The last *USS Ticonderoga* was decommissioned in 2004 and is now berthed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The first ship which was built in the Vergennes Shipyard in Vergennes, Vermont can now be seen at the Skenesborough Museum in Whitehall, NY.

The Ticonderoga Historical Society is proud to have Robert Lamb on their Board of Trustees. He is a retired marine engineer, having served in the Royal Naval Reserve and having worked in shipyards in Scotland before coming to America in 1962. His avocation for the last forty years has been marine and naval history.

The public is invited to the Hancock House to say hello to Bob and enjoy his exceptional lecture. For further information, please call 518-585-7868 or e-mail <tihistory@verizon.net>.

## Nature News by Nancy Wotton Scarzello

### The Peaceful Power of Nature Connection

When I want some peace and quiet, free from the distractions of this busy life, I go to the creek. Phone calls, emails that suck me into cyberspace, errands and household chores, work-related busy work and practicalities of daily life ~ my head is spinning trying to prioritize and give each the attention it needs from me ~ or what I think it needs...but what I really need are a few moments of peace to quiet my mind and that is why I go to the creek. A three-minute walk is all it takes to bring me to this spot, where I sit on the smooth ledge that juts out into the bend of the creek. Here is where the water is not rushing by as fast as the thoughts in my head, but where the current is barely discernable most of the year, unless a floating fallen leaf might be drifting by. Now, in the frozen time, the ice holds a snake-like pattern to indicate where the water flows below the surface, the only indication of movement at all.

This is the stillness I seek for my mind when I come here. I've been working with this technique called a Sit-Spot, for quite some time. Basically it's a place in nature you choose to sit and observe the natural world. By focusing on whatever presents itself in this immediate vicinity when I am quiet and still...listening for the *quietest* sound, for instance, I can override the sound of trucks on the highway and hear the slightest rustle of a bird in dry leaves, the whisper of a breeze in the trees, a cricket in the grass or what Joni Mitchell calls, "The hissing of summer lawns." And when I do this, I can't possibly think about all that stuff that was running around in my head earlier because there isn't room for it! Sometimes all I need is 15 minutes ~ I'm refreshed and ready to go back to work, energized and more focused so I actually accomplish much more when I return than if I had continued to spin my wheels in the sands of confusion. I have another Sit-Spot at my family home in Forest Bay; down by the water, with the vast view up the lake before me ~ I can get lost in that one for an hour or more.

Sometimes I cannot take such a long break or weather conditions like freezing temps or pouring rain might make the Sit-Spot not conducive to actually sitting out there for very long. But recently I discovered that I *can* have more than one spot and they can be as close to home as my back yard. The other afternoon I bundled up good and sat on the bench on the porch and just SAT. And in that quiet I heard movement in the leaves on the other side of the field. I thought there might be a deer approaching and was very still, waiting for it to appear, but it never did. The rustling continued, it sounded like footsteps in the dry leaves on the bare and frozen snowless ground. In my stillness and quietness I discovered the source of the rustling... robins were rummaging in the leaves for seeds. Suddenly I noticed they were all around me. There were robins in the leaves on the ground, in the sumac trees plucking berries from the red fruits and on the ground where they were dropping, in the apple tree...there must have been two dozen at least ~ I lost track counting them, and I also lost track of what had been agitating me before I stepped outside.

Yesterday I found another Sit-Spot ~ in my living room. I can see out the window into the yard and as I zoned out a bit, I noticed movement in the woods. Two gray squirrels and one

black...busily scrounging among the oak trees' leaves on the ground, they looked like they may have been trying to get to their food caches buried in the frozen earth. Without the insulating snow cover to keep the ground from freezing, they couldn't dig them up! Which would explain why they had been devouring the sunflower seed in my birdfeeders daily. It sure helped create some compassion for their predicament and maybe I'm not so annoyed with them today.

Five minutes of being present with nature that can create such a stress-relief on my life ~ a worthwhile investment I'm more than willing to make. I highly recommend it.

### Weather Report by JoAnne DeFranco

#### January 14, 2012 to February 16, 2012

Sunrise was at 6:55 am and sunset at 5:22 pm on February 15, 2012. The next full moon is March 8. We did receive about 2.5" of snow for the period on five different days ranging from a dusting to 1/2". There were three days when it was warm enough for rain resulting in icy walks and driveways. I do not have the amount as I took in my rain gauge for the winter. Solar flares occurred from January 22 to 26 creating fantastic northern lights (according to the weather forecaster). However, it was cloudy here in Hague most of that viewing time. I did not see anything. Is there anyone out there that got a view? Temperatures have been above average for the period.

There was ice in the Lake on January 31 but a wind came up and turned it all to ice cubes. I had my research assistant look up some information on Lake George ice cover\*. Records go back to 1908 on ice-in and ice-out dates. There have been eight times that Lake George never froze completely; seven of those times have been since 1991. Lake George froze in January 75 times and five times it froze in December. The earliest December freezing was Dec. 20, 1980. There were 14 times when the Lake froze in February. So my friends, there is still hope that the Lake could freeze. 2012 is leap year, adding one extra day in February. Records show that Lake George has never frozen in March.

As for going out: 5 times in March, 87 times in April. The latest ice-out was May 2 in 1940 and in 1971. Since 1980, they also list the number of days of ice cover. 1984 had the most days of ice cover at 121 days; 2006 was the least ice cover at 48 days.

As for snow, there is the whole month of March left. Some of our biggest snowstorms occur in March. Remember last March 7, 2011 there was a 20" snowfall. There was also a blizzard on Valentine's Day in 2007.

\*Data from Darrin Freshwater Institute report on LGA website:  
< <http://www.lakegeorgeassociation.org/who-we-are/documents/IceInOutdatesLakeGeorge2011.pdf> >

# HAGUE CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

- 23 7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals
- 23 7 pm Stout lecture on Romanesque and Gothic Art.
- 25 10:30 am Baptist Church Ladies Fellowship
- 28 1:30 pm Senior Club meeting and Bingo
- 28 7 pm Regular Ticonderoga Board of Education meeting and Budget Workshop (HS Cafeteria)

### TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Wednesday: 10 am to 4 pm

Saturday: 9 am to 4 pm

## MARCH

- 1 Tax Exemption application deadline
- 1 7 pm Planning Board
- 5 9:30 am Memorial Day Parade meeting
- 9 7 pm Ticonderoga Historical Society program
- 10 9 am - 1 pm LGLC Winter Warm Up
- 10 6 pm Baptist Church Family Movie Night
- 11 Daylight Savings begins - clocks ahead
- 13 6 pm Town Board
- 13 7 pm Ti Elementary School Play
- 15 4 pm Senior Club St. Patrick's dinner
- 16 News deadline for the March issue
- 20 7 pm Regular Ti Bd of Ed meeting
- 22 *The Hague Chronicle* is mailed out
- 24 7 pm Ti High School 3 Act Play

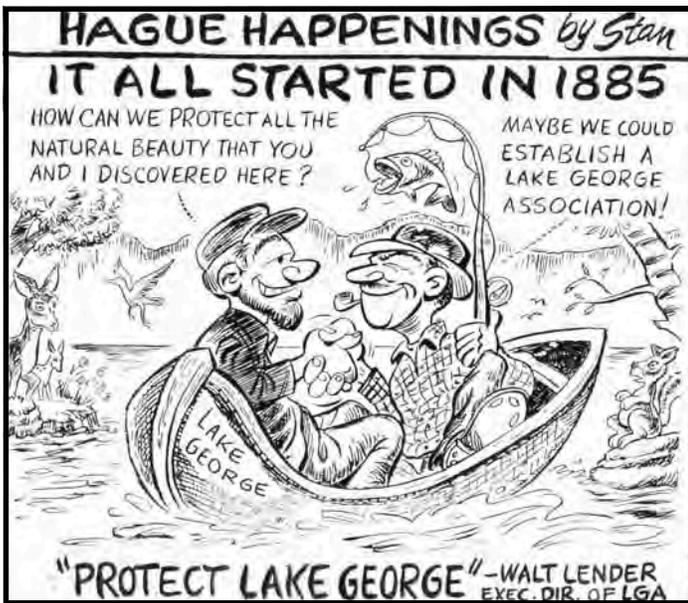


- lots more pictures of Winter Weekend!

## CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Your pictures (digital images) taken in Hague or surrounding Adirondacks are wanted for the 2012 photo contest sponsored by *The Hague Chronicle*. The images must be taken between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.

There were over 100 outstanding entries in last year's contest and even more are expected this year with so many terrific amateur photographers in our area. For full details and guidelines see our website <[www.thehaguechronicle.org](http://www.thehaguechronicle.org)> or pick up a flyer at the Community Center.



## FOUND: EYEGLASSES

A pair of bifocal eyeglasses with purple side pieces and in a gray case have been found along Lakeshore Drive (9N) in the Sabbath Day Point area. For further information inquire at the Silver Bay Post Office.

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