



2009 SCHOOL TAX PREDICTION

Acting as Hague's "town crier without portfolio", Bob Schwarz, a strong advocate for a change in Hague's school tax structure, submits the following grim tax dollar increase prediction of what property owners might well see in the tax bills this September. He predicts about a 17% increase from his tracking of unfolding events due to the following three factors:

- 1) Added dollars to "amortize" last year's approved \$10 million expansion
- 2) Added dollars for year in - year out increased teacher salaries, etc.
- 3) Added dollars to cover impending NYS State Aid reductions

Schwarz also gives a brief summary of the history of Hague's tax payments as a participant in the Ticonderoga School system, starting in 1979-80, or 29 years ago:

Factor	Hague	Ticonderoga	State Aid	Total
79-80 tax \$	\$536,000	\$1,290,000	\$1,636,000	\$3,462,000
79-80 percent	15.4%	37.3%	47.3%	100.0%
07-08 tax \$	\$4,458,013	\$4,437,856	\$6,335,613	\$15,231,482
07-08 percent	29.3%	29.1%	41.6%	100.0%
07-08 student	88	888		976

Note: Student # is approximate

In 2007 - 2008, Hague and Ticonderoga paid about the same total tax dollars but there were 11 times as many students from Ticonderoga as in Hague. He notes that the 3 factors which will contribute to an increased budget are difficult for Hague residents to challenge or "rectify." However, he really wants to rectify a 4th factor - *the payment imbalance between Hague and Ticonderoga*. Bob has done a lot of research and wants others to join with him in this worthy cause to work on a plan now. He says, "September is not far away!"

Bob Schwarz can be reached at 371-8018 or <rschwarz7@nycap.rr.com >.

NEW STAFF MEMBER

A very special welcome and thank you to Jim Henderson who joins our staff as Layout Editor. Jim is a life-long summer resident who has lots of computer experience. All our correspondence has been by email as he has given *The Hague Chronicle* the new look that you see this month. Jim has also been a helpful technical consultant for the Hague Historical Society. Jim and his wife, Donna, live in Cromwell, CT.

PARTIAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

David Martucci, Sole Assessor, urges all **primary residence** homeowners to contact the office (543-6161) to see if they are eligible for the following exemptions. Details and applications are available Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 3 pm. **The filing deadline is March 1, 2009:**

Senior Citizens' exemption:

Primary residence home-owners over age 65 with the following household income ceilings for the listed taxing jurisdictions:

County	\$23,700 (Includes sliding scale)
Town	\$23,700 (Includes sliding scale)
School	\$30,399 (Includes sliding scale)

This exemption must be renewed each year. Renewal forms will be sent in late December to those who had this exemption last year.

Enhanced STAR exemption:

Primary residence home-owners over age 65 with household income less than \$73,000. This exemption must be renewed each year unless an Optional Verification form is submitted. Renewal forms will be sent in late December to those who had this exemption last year.

Basic STAR exemption :

All primary residence home-owners. This exemption does not have to be renewed each year, once the first application is approved.

Veterans' exemption:

Primary residence homeowners with military service during wartime periods. This exemption does not have to be renewed each year.

"DON'T TRASH THE ICE!"

Lake George is frozen over now and the Lake George Association has renewed their seasonal campaign to urge Lake George winter sports enthusiasts to refrain from leaving trash on the ice. "Carry On, Carry Off" is the slogan that will be appearing on signs, posters and flyers around Lake George at public access points and in local businesses. The LGA hopes the campaign will strike a chord with the hundreds of ice fishermen, snowmobilers, skaters and others who may travel out onto the ice. They remind people that the ice is temporary and anything left on the ice will eventually end up in the Lake after ice-out.

HAGUE MEMORY TREE

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE IN MEMORY OF THE FOLLOWING:



Ralph Aiken, Robert Alkinburgh, Alvin Allen, Pauline Allison, Arthur Anisansel, Dorothy Anisansel, Anna Aunchman, Leo Aunchman, Gedney Baldwin, Andrew N. Barnaby, Jr., Barnaby Family, Donald Barber, Gladys Barber, Donald Barker, Sr., Gladys Barker, Joseph Barnett Family, Mary Beadnell, Belden Family, Esther Belden, Mabel Belden, Maud Belden, James Belden, Joan Belden, Morgan Belden, Howard Belden, Charles Belden, Leatha Bennett, MC Beste, Winifred "Winnie" & William "Bill" Blair, James Bly, Doris Bolton, Jack Bolton, Gerhard Boyd, Josephine Lambert Braisted, Brink Family, Catherine Brock, Charlotte Brock, Louis Brock, Brod Family, Margaret Broderick, Punky Brunsell, Bob Bryant, Betty Burnham, Hannah Conlon Cameron, Jane Carpenter, John Carpenter, John Carpenter, Jr., Harold Carpenter, Richard S. Carpenter, Zella Carpenter, George & Ruth Carter, Edsal Case, Case Family, Marie Charboneau, James Cooke, Jimmy Cooke, Donald Close, John M. Costello, John B. Costello, Bess Costello, Mike Costello, Bruce Courtright, Edward Hubley Crabbs, Eliza Hamilton Crabbs, Edward Hamilton Crabbs, Bertha Reiff Crabbs, David Dent Crabbs, John David Crabbs, Darlene S. Davis, Betty Decker, Clifford Decker, Emerson Decker, Mary Jane Decker, Wilbert Decker, Michael Defelice, Billie DeGraff, Ervin DeGraff, Gene Denno, Marion Denno, Bob & Geneva Denno, Joseph Devenger, Myrtle W. Devenger, William H. Devenger, Ryan Dickson, Kenneth & Thelma Drake, Annette Dufrane, Charles Dufrane, Merritt Durgy,

Mildred Eddy, Dr. Fred Eggers, James Eichen, Mildred Eichen, Josie M. Emery, Dottie Engler, Howie Engler, Kay Engler, Ken Engler, Sr., Sam Eannace, Bub Fadding, John Fadding, Jennifer Fenimore, Bert Ferguson, Herman Fish, Floyd Fish, Charlie Fish, Jane Fitzgerald, Jean Fitzgerald, Barb Fitzgerald, Martha Fitzgerald, Marilyn Frank, Beatrice Frasier, Dale W. Frasier, Mitchel D. Frasier, Clifford Frasier, Frasier Family, Mary A. Frasier, Slip Frasier, Geraldine Frasier, Carl "Chief" Frasier, Veril Frasier, Samuel R. Frasier, Chet Frasier, Justin Ryan Frasier, Kenneth Scott Frasier, Elaine Frasier, Richard S. Frasier, Asia Fuller, John Gallant, Viola Hoyt Gallant, James L. Galusha, James I. Galusha, Nellie Galusha, Helen Galusha, Donald Galusha, Patricia Frasier Galusha, Leona Gallo, Lula & Scott Gifford, Charlie Goss, Grandfathers of Doug Sham, Howard Granger, Jr., Jerome L. Granger, Ronald K. Graser, Toby Hatfield, Archie Herrick, Gert Herrick, Jim Herrick, Debbie Bly Hicks, Ada Hoyt, Bob Hoyt, George & Marion Hudler, Pat Inzero, Allen Johns, Bessie & Louis Johnson, Curtis Jordon, Margaret Jordon, Ernest "Gramps" (PAP) Jordon, John Kennedy, Laird Family, John Landers, Mary (Lib) Landers, Pat & Janet Lauder, Marge Laundree, Ray Laundree, Frederick LaPann, Clifford Lund,

Bernice MacGregor, Hope Manning, Grant Manning Sr., Buzzy Manning, Bessie Masten, Eber Masten, Bill Mathews, Betty Mathews, Duane Mattison, Ada May, Harry May, Gary May, Kyle P. May, Gordon (Hubcap) May, Norma Megow, Ludolf J. Megow, Irene Megow, Petey Michael, Graham Michael, Ursula Montbriand, Carmella Morette, Grace & Nelson Patchett, Jackie Perkins, Carl Perry, Tim Philips, Claire Piantadosi, Agnes Pierce, Joseph Pierce Family, Connie Ramagli, Lucio Ramagli, Barb Rawson, Martha Kuck Reiff, Carolyn Rogers, Roman Family, David Rosbrook, Wesley Ross, Leroy Ryder, Carol S. Sanderson, Joan Sarjeant, George Savage, Erlo Schoder, Helen Schoder, Hulda Schoder, Rex Schoder, Laura Schreider, Michael Serdinsky, Virginia Shattuck, Marion Shoemaker, Elizabeth (Corbee) Skahan, Colleen "Cissy" Smith, John F. Smith, Bessie E. Smith, Fredrick W. Smith, Edith Smith, Florence Smith, Uncle Jim Smith, Brandon Snyder, Richard Stormer, Sr., Catherine & Frederick Stull, Carl Sunderland, Frank Swinton, Bruce Tamlyn, Nancy Tamlyn, Vera Thomas, Josephine Thomas, Ryan Thompson, Trudeau Family, Mildred Tuminsky, Anna & William Van Kleeck, Marion Van Kleeck, Hatch Van Kleeck, Bud Van Kleeck, Henry Vickerson, John & Julie Vickerson, Leo Wells, Margaret Wells, Crystal Wells, Ed Whitaker, Jim Whitaker, Jason Woodard, Fran Wolfe, Gabriel Wright.

WINTER WEEKEND AT HVFD

This year, at the request of the Beste Scholarship Committee, many of the Winter Weekend events will be centered at the Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) site. The HVFD will sponsor its usual Breakfast Buffet on Saturday, February 14, 2009 from 7-11 am at \$8 for adults and \$6 for kids. In addition the Fred LaPann Memorial Footrace will start and finish at the firehouse, and both the Beste Scholarship Dinner (Saturday at 6 pm) and the Chili Bake off (Sunday at 3 pm) will occur there as well.

A mandatory OSHA training was held with good attendance on January 10, 2009. Several more training events are on the calendar for Firemen, Fire Police and EMTs in the winter and early spring. Congratulations to Scott Siwek and Tom Haskell Jr. who recently passed a rigorous course on Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. Lou Megow has been appointed by the Warren County Board of Supervisors to its EMS Advisory Board. Doug Sham, our fitness coordinator, has arranged a friendly Hague vs. Ti Challenge on April 25th.

In December there were a combined total of 15 Fire and EMS calls.

With snow banks so high this winter there is often no place for pedestrians to walk but in the road. Drivers beware.

... Joe McCranels

HAGUE ARTS FAIR

Planning has started for the 38th Annual Hague Arts Fair which will be held on August 1st and 2nd at the Community Center. Anyone may participate from the local community, neighboring counties and states. New this year will be a Farmer's Market for local fresh produce and breads.

For further information, please contact Judy Schultz at 518-543-6769.

4-H SHOOTING CLASS

Following the success of the 4-H Shooting Sports mini-course, the Warren County 4-H program is offering its second shooting sports multi-discipline class beginning on Thursday, February 5th. This intensive training class of 15 sessions is designed to teach youth (12 by February 5) about the safe handling of firearms, the ethical use of firearms and bows in sport, and the role of conservation in natural resources. There is a provision for any family who may not be able to afford the \$25 fee. If you know of a youth that would be interested in this program, call John F. Bove at the Extension office (668-4881) or email him at <jfb32@cornell.edu>.

SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Joe McCranels



Joe McCranels has been selected as the Hague Senior Citizen of the Year by the Hague Chamber of Commerce.

Sal Santaniello made the announcement and presented Joe with a plaque at the Senior Citizen's Christmas luncheon. On behalf of the Senior Club, Judy Stock, president, presented Joe with flowers.

In his announcement, Sal noted some of the many ways in which Joe has contributed to the Town of Hague. He has been a driver for Meals-on-Wheels, a member of the Beste Fund Scholarship committee, a member and on the Board of Directors of the HVFD, correspondent for The Hague Chronicle, Hague Winter Carnival committee member, coordinator of the cross-country skiing at Rogers Rock, member of the Kiwanis and "all around helper when needed."

Congratulations Joe!

EDITOR'S NOTE 1/16/08 at 10:06 am - As I was typing these pages, there was a loud "boom!" and the whole house shook - no problem, just the ice on the Lake expanding!

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>.

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, NY 12836-0748

Editor/Publisher: Judy Stock (518-543-6517)

Editorial Staff: Pat McDonough

Layout Editor: Jim Henderson

Our website: www.thehaguechronicle.org

TOWN BOARD MEETING- 12/29/08

The Town Board held its annual year-end meeting with all members present. They passed several resolutions which pertain to balancing accounts. They also accepted, with regret, the resignation of Rolly Allen from the Planning Board.

In executive session, they continued a discussion about an employee and health insurance which is still in dispute.

TOWN BOARD MEETING - 1/5/09

The Town Board held its annual organizational meeting with all members present. Most of the business was standard in beginning a new year such as designating TD Bank North in Bolton Landing as the official bank, designating the Glens Falls Post Star as the official newspaper for legal advertisements, and setting up accounts and petty cash funds. They established a mileage reimbursement rate for 2009 at \$0.40 per mile.

They entered into contracts with the HVFD for fire protection and ambulance services (in an amount not to exceed \$252,305), Dr. Mack for the housing of seized animals, Hague Senior Citizens Club for services to the elderly, Hague Snowgoers for maintenance and upkeep of snowmobile trails and the Hague Chamber of Commerce for promotion.

Appointments continued for Budget Officer - Daniel Belden, Town Naturalist - Dave DeFranco, Community Center Coordinator - Bertha Dunsmore, Board of Health - Town Board, Care Program Officer - Edna Frasier, Dog/Animal Control Officer - Linda Benway, ZBA chair - Robert Goetsch, PB chair - EJ Siwek, WC Youth Board - Rudy Meola, Attorney for the Town - Dominick Viscardi, Deputy Supervisor - Edna Frasier, Deputy Highway Superintendent - Daniel Steitz.

Reappointed for terms lasting until December 31, 2014 were Lindsay Mydlarz to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Pam Peterson to the Planning Board.

Other resolutions set holidays for employees, established Board committees, set employee salaries and adopted a procurement policy.

Further information on this, and any other meetings, is available in the official minutes which are available at the Community Center.

TOWN BOARD - 1/13/09

Supervisor Belden and Board members Frasier, Gladu, Martucci and Meola were all present.

A moment of silence was held for: Bessie Yaw, Howard Hayes, Barbara Baldwin and Roland "Mac" MacDowell.

The Supervisor extended the privilege of the floor to the following guests:

Doug Sham reported on the important enrichment work of the daily After School Program administered by Silver Bay which currently serves about 250 students from Ticonderoga, Moriah, Crown Point and Hague. He indicated that funding for this program may be cut and he urged everyone to contact state legislators. More information is available in the lobby at the Community Center.

Graham Bailey reported that during the past week there have been break-ins in houses in Arcady, Friends Point and Forest Bay.

Steve Ramant thanked the Board for the \$1000 for the Fish & Game fishing tournament to be held on Saturday, February 28th and Sunday, March 1st.

The following is a summary of some of the discussion for each committee report. Two Town Board members serve on each committee and the committee members are listed so they can be contacted if anyone has a question or comment about that area of government.

Town Board Committee Reports:

1. Assessor/Justice (Gladu/Meola):

Councilman Gladu reported that they are going through the study on equalization. He also noted that with the current state budget problems there is a proposal to have the state lands remain fixed at the current tax levy. The committee will work on a letter to send to Albany.

2. Buildings & Grounds/Enhancement (Martucci/Frasier):

Councilman Martucci reported that an evaluation will be done in the next month to see what still needs to be done with the building. The work on the front steps has been authorized and they are waiting for the carpenter to do it.

Supervisor Belden noted that the 3 Enhancement grants that they have been awarded (on parking lots and town entrances) have not been released from the NYS Comptroller's office and therefore no contracts have been signed. The grants are for matching funds which the Town must match with money or goods and services.

3. Finance & Insurance (Frasier/Martucci):

Councilman Meola noted that under State law, the Town should have an investment policy which should be renewed annually. Councilwoman Frasier said that an investment policy is one item they plan to discuss with the independent auditor who has not yet indicated when he will return to continue his work in Hague.

The Board approved a motion by Councilman Meola to provide direct deposit for the paychecks for Town employees.

4. Fire Department (Gladu/Martucci):

The committee reported that many members of the HVFD continue to attend lots of training sessions.

5. Highway (Martucci/Gladu):

Highway Superintendent Don Smith said that his first priority has been the roads and as soon as he can he'll get the equipment from the sewer plant to plow the sidewalks downtown. Councilmen Gladu and Meola stressed that the sidewalks need to be done as soon as possible after a snowstorm for safety considerations.

Councilman Meola reported that he had received several messages from residents who feel that the roads need to be

better maintained after it snows. He noted that there seems to be a discrepancy between the condition of Routes 9N and 8 in Hague and the part of those roads in neighboring towns. He said that a document from the State clearly indicates the DOT maintenance standards to be used. Mr. Gladu said that the Highway Committee has the document and plans to go over it with the members of the Highway Department. Gladu stressed that maintenance is important for the safety factors.

Councilman Gladu will put a proposal together for the Board for testing the quality of the water at the various Town venues (community center, highway shed, town park, etc).

Councilman Martucci reported on cost saving measures that are being implemented relating to fuel costs for heating and the trucks.

6. Museum & Historian (Frasier/Martucci):

Councilwoman Frasier reported that the Historical Society is planning a program for March and that they are working on a possible marker for Graphite so that people are aware that there was once a community there.

7. Personnel (Frasier/Gladu):

Councilman Meola suggested that additional training should be given to the office staff so that the financial reports could be done if one was absent.

8. Planning/Zoning/Stormwater (Gladu/Meola):

ZEO report to the Town Board indicated 2 land use development permits were issued last month and one zoning violation for an unregistered truck.

A proposed change on rentals in Hague is in the hands of the APA and after their comments are received, it will be submitted to the Board.

Concern was expressed about the new LGPC Stream Corridor regulations. ZEO Clark noted that it includes tiny streams which "start nowhere and end nowhere" but if they have continuous flow for all but 30 days they are subject to the regulations. Concern was also expressed as to how the new regulations might affect property values.

Chris Navitsky, Lake George Waterkeeper, was in attendance and suggested that there is another side to the proposed regulations which are important for water quality. Citing the Hague delta among others, he noted that what is in place now is not working. Development will not slow down. Property values will only go down if the quality of the Lake is compromised.

9. Recreation, Promotion & Youth (Meola/Martucci):

On promotion, Dick Gladu, Rudy Meola and Bob Patchett have agreed to serve on a committee to review the comprehensive plan.

10. Sewer District #1 & #2 (Belden/Frasier):

An informational meeting about Sewer District #2 will be held on Tuesday, January 20th.

11. Town Park (Meola/Martucci):

Councilman Meola wants to remind everyone that the only Beach parking stickers that are valid for town residents are the green ones. The old yellow or red ones are no longer valid.

12. Transfer Station (Gladu/Meola):

The Town will request a copy of the year end DEC report from Casella.

The committee has the names of 2 other providers along with Casella from whom to get proposals to run the Transfer Station when the current contract is up.

In other business, the Board

Appointed Richard Frasier as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2009.

Appointed Martin Fitzgerald, II as Deputy Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire on December 31, 2009.

Passed a resolution transferring money from the general fund to the account of Sewer District #2 to pay current expenses. The money will be transferred back when funds are available

Passed a resolution that allows County bed tax money to pass through to the Snowmobile Club to maintain trails.

Passed a resolution giving authority to Supervisor Daniel D. Belden, Deputy Supervisor Edna A. Frasier and Secretary to the Supervisor, Diane M. Trudeau to open accounts and deposit and withdraw funds with a facsimile signature in order to facilitate financial transactions.

Authorized the Hague Supervisor and Highway Superintendent to sign a Shared Service Agreement (no funds involved) with the Town of Ticonderoga for plowing, salting and sanding of Hayford Road.

Set the date of February 10, 2009 for a public hearing on the Telecommunication proposal. The Board will convene at 5:30 pm for their audit meeting, followed by the Telecommunication hearing at 6 pm and then the regular Town Board meeting at 6:30 pm.

Discussed a memo from Councilman Gladu in which he suggested that the Board needs to look at several issues and put together a structured plan for addressing them over the next year. It is necessary to balance the needs of the residents and employees and taxpayers especially in light of the current economic conditions. He suggested that Supervisor Belden ask each Town Board committee to come up with a list of prioritized challenges which could be followed up with a set of structured plans to be reviewed monthly. The individual Board members and members of the public are invited to make recommendations as well. It is hoped that all these suggestions can be made in writing by the next Board meeting.

Persons who have suggestions should send them in writing to the Supervisor at PO Box 509, Hague, NY 12836 or by email to <supervisor@townofhague.org> or give them to any Board member.



GET INVOLVED

PLANNING BOARD VACANCY

There is an opening for a volunteer member of the Planning Board. The candidate should be a resident of Hague and be available to attend Planning Board meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm. A letter of interest can be sent to the Town Clerk, Town of Hague, PO Box 509, Hague, NY 12836 or email <townclerk@townofhague.org>.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A public hearing will be held on the new WTF (Wireless Telecommunications Facilities) amendment for the Town of Hague on February 10, 2009 at 6 pm just before the regular Town Board meeting. A public hearing is required before the Board takes further action. They must then do an environmental evaluation before approving the code changes.

NEW ZBA MEMBER

Jon Hanna has joined the ZBA filling a vacancy until 2013. Jon and his wife Janet live in Sabbath Day Point. He is the son of Blanche and the late George Hanna who have been long-time residents. Jon has been vacationing in Hague for over fifty years, first with his parents and then with his own family. Jon worked for Verizon for 34 years while living in Denville, NJ and served on the environmental board there for many years. He was also the campaign manager for several town council candidates. Jon is currently retired and pursuing many interests as well as traveling the country with his wife.

“The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax” - Albert Einstein



FREE TAX PREPARATION

Local volunteers, as part of AARP’s Tax Aide Program, prepare and e-file federal and state tax returns for middle and low-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. There is no charge for preparing or e-filing the returns. The AARP Tax-Aide Program is the nation’s largest free, volunteer-run tax preparation and assistance service.

Jan and Bob Whitaker, local coordinators of the program, reported that last year over 100 returns were prepared and e-filed by trained and certified volunteers. Returns will be prepared on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 3 pm between now and April 15, 2009. Call the Hague Community Center at 543-6161 to schedule your appointment.

PLANNING BOARD - 1/8/09

Present were EJ Siwek, chairman and Board members Pam Peterson, Martin Fitzgerald Sr., John Brown and Bruce Clark were present. Rolly Allen has resigned and Dick Frasier was absent.

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

The Board approved the request for a two lot subdivision of a 12.20 acre lot with one lot of 11.78 acres and another with .42 acre to be merged with a neighboring lot. The transfer of land is needed for a driveway entrance.

OLEARY (26.10-1-21) 24 Spring Lane (TR-1R)

The Board recommended to the ZBA that they approve the request for a variance for a 13' 6" x 26' 6" deck addition to a nonconforming structure. The existing house and proposed deck sit approximately 30' from Lake George.

SCHOOL BOARDS MEETING

Edna and Dick Frasier, Ticonderoga School Board member, attended a recent BOCES conference which addressed the question of why the schools in the north country have a much higher rate of graduation than the rest of the state. Shane Graser, grandson of Gladys Graser of Hague and the late Ron Graser, met Commissioner Mills and well represented the Ticonderoga schools in his response to questions.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS

There will be a defensive driving class for drivers of any age at the Hague Wesleyan Church on February 23 & 24 from 6 - 9 pm both evenings. For more information call instructor Charlie Antonetti at 585-3450.

PUBLIC DINNER

A Public Boneless Pork Loin Dinner, sponsored jointly by the members of Mount Defiance Lodge No. 794, F &AM and Fort Ticonderoga Chapter No. 263, Order of the Eastern Star, will be served January 30, 2009, at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street, Ticonderoga. Take-outs will be available from 4 - 5 pm, and dine-in begins at 5 pm in the downstairs dining hall. Tickets, \$10 for adults and \$7 for children 12 years old and under, will be available both by advanced sale by members of the Masons and the Stars and at the door. This event is the first in a series of monthly public dinners planned through late Spring.

CHORALE RESUMES REHEARSALS

The Champlain Valley Chorale announces resumption of rehearsals for its upcoming Spring concert. Weekly rehearsals will be held each Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, Wicker Street, Ticonderoga, beginning February 3, 2009, and continuing to the concert presentation in May. New singers in all sections are welcomed, and no audition is necessary. For further information, please contact Bill Westervelt at 585-6548.

Looking Back



The June 1975 issue of *The Hague Chronicle* offered some tidbits on Hague historical sites:

Friends Point - once an Indian encampment. On a dark night two scouting parties met here during the French and Indian Wars and prepared for combat. They discovered they were friends and not foes - hence the name.

Sabbath Day Point - In July 1759 General Amherst landed here with a force of 12,000 men and passed the sabbath day in religious services. - hence the name.

Calamity Rock - about one-half mile north of Hague where the John Jay (ship) burned on July 29, 1856. Six lives were lost.

Wardboro- about 12 miles south of town park, three miles off Route 9N, was once a thriving settlement named for a number of Ward families who first settled there. An old cemetery marks the spot.

Jabe Pond - named for Jabe Patchen is located a mile west of Route 9N in Silver Bay. Jabe Patchen was the son of Samuel, the first supervisor of the Town of Hague and a Revolutionary War hero. ... pm



*Sabbath Day Point—circa 1904
The Library of Congress
Detroit Publishing Company Collection*

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As we look forward to the coming year, we are hoping to do a program on old houses and other buildings in the Town of Hague. We'd like folks to tell us about their homes or other interesting buildings; when were they built and perhaps by whom; who has lived there; are there any funny stories or legends about the house; how has the house changed over the years. If you have a history of your home or other out buildings, we'd love to have you come and be a part of the program. If you have photographs, even better!

Perhaps your home isn't old, but it's part of a tract of land which has some history -- Arcady or Lake Forest, for instance. It would be wonderful to hear about those too.

As we progress in our planning, we'd like to know who might be willing to participate. We would be excited to hear from you so please call Pat McDonough at 543-6725 or email us at <haguehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com>.

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

On February 12, 1809, Mr. Thomas Lincoln and Mrs. Nancy Hanks Lincoln became the proud parents of a new son whom they named Abraham. This event was the beginning of the life of a young man who would lead the country through some of its darkest days. In 2009 the nation will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln with exhibits, talks, documentaries and other events. It is important that we all take a moment to remember the man who led the nation through the horrendous Civil War to preserve this nation and to initiate the first action to begin the freeing of the slaves.

There are many books available in your local library about the history of Lincoln from his early childhood until his death by assassination on April 14, 1865. I would recommend the book "Abraham Lincoln" by James M. McPherson. It is a small book but gives a brief but thorough telling of Lincoln's life. There is also the book "Team of Rivals" by Doris Kearns Goodwin that describes the political genius of Mr. Lincoln. Finally, I would recommend "Mary Todd Lincoln" by Jean H. Baker. It is a biography of Mrs. Lincoln which describes her early days in Kentucky, her tumultuous courtship with Mr. Lincoln and finally their time at the White House.

Gerald Crammond, Town Historian

SILVER BAY YMCA NEWS

Silver Bay took first place in the Holiday in Hague Christmas Tree Contest in December and the \$100 prize was donated to the Hague Food Pantry. The entry featured ornaments made of recycled materials.

More than 50 people have taken advantage of Silver Bay's new community initiative which offers access to Silver Bay's many winter activities like sledding on two designated sledding hills, hiking and snow shoeing, fitness center and Spiritual Life programs. The offer is valid through March 31, 2009.

About 120 people shared Christmas Eve at Silver Bay with a candlelight service in the Chapel. Pastor Bruce Tamlyn said "it's becoming a tradition now for people to come to Silver Bay for Christmas service and we so welcome everyone."

NLG ROTARY CLUB NEWS

The Beste Scholarship Dinner will be held at the HVFD Community Room on February 14, 2009 at 6 pm. During that time will be a silent auction that will help benefit the NLG Rotary Club and the Beste Scholarship. Please join us to honor our Scholarship recipients and to enjoy a night out with your friends in the community.

The NLG Rotary Club is a service club that meets at Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks at 7:30 am every Tuesday. Through the end of March 2009 the Rotary Club will be meeting in Ticonderoga at the Inter-Lakes Health Crown Terrace. A full breakfast is offered before the business meeting and there will be a local guest speaker. Please contact our President, Bob Johnson, at 543-6127 for more information on the meeting or any of our events. New members are always welcome.

~SOUNDINGS~

BORN: A daughter, Maggie Grace, to Jenny and Jordan Wilson of Charlotte, VT on November 18, 2008. Jenny is a lifetime summer resident of Hague. Maternal grandparents are Betsey Engler Barton of Chatham, NJ and Hague, NY and Tom Behr of Millington, NJ and Nova Scotia. Paternal grandparents are Jan Wilson of Essex Junction, VT and Greg Wilson of S. Burlington, VT.

MARRIED: Todd McFeely and Nicole Elliott on October 5, 2008 in Pennsylvania. Todd is a life long summer resident of Silver Bay and the son of Anne and Bill McFeely. Todd is a professor and the department chair of Communications Design at Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA and Nicole is a first year medical student. The wedding was a mini Silver Bay reunion on a beautiful fall day in PA.

DIED: William Bodnar, 81, of Sarasota and formerly of Pine Cove Road, Hague, on October 21, 2008. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Lillian Varga Bodnar. He is predeceased by a son, William Bodnar, II and a daughter, Vicki Malagrino Bodnar. He is also survived by grandsons William Bodnar, III and Leonard Malagrino and a granddaughter, Patricia Malagrino and 3 great granddaughters.

Bill was a certified Scuba Diver and Licensed Pilot but his love of the water and boating took him to Lake George where he spent 18 years teaching his children and grandchildren skiing and the same love of water.

DIED: Howard Lawrence Hayes, 90, peacefully on December 29, 2008, in hospice care at the Hoosick Falls Health Center.

Howard grew up on, and remained a longtime resident and proprietor of, the Hazycrest Farm in West Hague, the home of five generations of the Hayes family. He also was a graduate of Hague Central School and an employee of International Paper Company in Ticonderoga. He and his wife retired to Brooksville, FL but returned to upstate New York in 2000 to be near family.

Howard is survived by his wife Irene; daughters Constance Moore of Clifton Park and April Konoyima of Marion, IN; a son, Dwight Hayes of Mililani, Hawaii; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a sister, Dorothea "Dot" Lamos, age 95, of Glens Falls.

DIED: Roland "Mac" MacDowell of Washington Township, NJ from Pulmonary Fibrosis on January 11, 2009. He loved Lake George and has been a summer resident of Oneida Bay since 1954.

Mac is survived by his wife Marilyn, two sons, Scott and his wife Kathy of Upper Saddle River and their children Tara and Andrew; and Rick, his wife Astrid and their children, Emily and Alex who reside in Bardonia, N.Y.

DIED: Robert B. "Bob" Murray, 70, of Warrensburg on December 17, 2008. Bob was predeceased by a son, Joseph Murray and is survived by his wife of 50 years, Calista (Streeter) Murray of Warrensburg, sons Berto and wife Doreen of Fort Edward and George of Hudson Falls, a brother Michael Murray and his wife, Lillian (Streeter) of Diamond Point, a sister Leona French of Diamond Point and several grand, great-grand and great-great grandchildren.

DIED: Bessie E. (Jackson) Yaw, 94, formerly of Hague, on December 30, 2008 in Ballston Spa. She was predeceased by her husband, Edward Yaw in October. She is survived by daughters Elinor Faulkner of Valley Falls and Katherine Doty of South Glens Falls and their families.

HAGUE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

It's that Resolution Time once again and we do hope you have added *Join the Seniors* to your list for 2009. We meet every 4th Tuesday of the month at the Community Center at 1:30 pm and membership dues are still only \$5 for anyone 50 yrs+. If you check *The Hague Chronicle* each month, you will find a Club news article giving all the details of our activities.

December was busy for us. We operated our Christmas Tree Shop during the Holiday in Hague weekend and did very well. We thank all who donated their time, baked goods, items to sell and definitely, you wonderful shoppers who supported our efforts. All profits go to the Memorial Day Parade fund.

The Senior Christmas Luncheon was well attended and a grand success. Congratulations go to Joe McCranels who was named Senior of the Year by the Hague Chamber of Commerce. We are proud of you, Joe. You are a true credit to our town.

The Club's first meeting for 2009 will be on Tuesdays, January 27th starting at 1:30 pm at the Community Center. The program for the day will include a surprise entertainment - smiles galore are guaranteed!! Come check us out. We look forward to seeing you. ... mp



At the Senior Club Luncheon

BRIDAL SHOWCASE

The Best Western Ticonderoga Inn & Suites is hosting a Bridal Fair & Showcase on Sunday, February 8, 2009 from 10 am to 4 pm with an admission of \$3 per person.

The Showcasing will feature information on vendors, a bridal fashion show, wedding planning services, cake cutting and bouquet toss and door prizes will be given.

For further information contact Best Western at 518-585-2378 or email <kkraft@BestticonderogaHotel.com>.

Nature News by Nancy Wotton Scarzello

Nature News will not be published this month but please review the article that follows—it is important to all in the Lake George area.

NEW LGPC GUIDELINES

The Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) has released a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) which incorporates draft stream corridor management regulations aimed at better protecting Lake George and its tributary streams. The DGEIS and related information can be viewed and downloaded at <www.lgpc.state.ny.us>. Public comments on the documents will be accepted through February 28, 2009.

The regulations propose that a 100 foot vegetative buffer, preferably native forest, be retained along each side of lake tributary streams when land is developed. The primary purpose is to buffer the flow of sediments, contaminants and nutrients into the Lake which would otherwise reduce water quality, feed algae and fuel weed growth.

The draft regulations also contain standards for stream disturbances to preserve fish passage, protect water quality and reduce impacts to down stream property. The Commission also released a question and answer style summary about the draft regulations. It provides a thumbnail description of the program along with information on how the standards will be integrated into existing state regulations and local land use programs.

The LGPC concludes that even after a good deal of community effort, the Lake is still showing problems that are a direct result of sediments and nutrients carried by streams. Sediment deposition, nutrient enrichment and reduced water quality near developed areas are partly a result of poor management of stream corridors. Restoration of near shore areas from these effects will run in the millions of dollars with real concern as to whether the Lake's clarity can ever be fully restored to levels recorded just a few decades ago. The stream corridor management program, in its largest sense, includes efforts to plan, secure funds and restore streams.

The LGPC, which oversees the Lake's water quality, is charged by law to develop stream corridor management regulations. The new stream regulations are expected to augment the LGPC's existing standards for stormwater management

For additional information contact Michael White, Executive Director at <info@lgpc.state.ny.us>.

X-COUNTRY CHALLENGE

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) is hosting a free, challenging, intermediate cross-country ski event on February 7, 2009 in Bolton. Beginning at 9:30 am the full-day excursion will lead participants on an 8-mile round-trip adventure leading to the summits of Thomas and Cat Mountains, with expansive views of the frozen southern Lake George basin below. For experienced skiers only. Registrations are required - call 644-9673 or email <shoffman@lgpc.org>.

Weather Report by JoAnne DeFranco

Weather Notes will not be published this month but the following article is an update on TV weather information.

TV WEATHER REPORT



With WPTZ, Channel 5 off the air, it is harder to get local weather on TV. Steve Ramant has contacted Steve Caporizzo, the weatherman for the Albany station WTEN, Channel 10 (cable HD channel 1810) to alert him of the need for additional north country reporting. Caporizzo, who is familiar with Hague having fished on the Lake with Ed Becker of Sabbath Day Point, sent Steve a nice response. He noted that his report does include Warren County and they give snowfall figures for Warrensburg, Chestertown, Lake George, North Creek, Bakers Mills, etc. He said, "I would most definitely include Hague on the map.....just keep me updated with your report before the news."

Hague temperature has already been highlighted in Caporizzo's weather report and Steve Ramant will continue to send weather news to him. So thanks to Steve Ramant and Steve Caporizzo who are making WTEN our best bet for local weather!

GEOCACHING

On February 18th at 1pm the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) 4-H Youth Development Program will be hosting a geocaching program and area youth are invited to participate. Pre-registration is required and there will be a \$2 fee. Participants will meet at the CCE Education Center and the geocaching search for hidden treasures will be conducted in the Warrensburg area. Snowshoes, waterproof footwear, and warm layered clothing are recommended. CCE can provide up to six GPS units, but participants may bring their own.

To register contact John Bowe or Michele Baker at 518-668-4881 or 623-3291.

T'AI CHI CLASSES

Mae Pagan continues to offer T'ai Chi classes - Meditation in Motion - at the Hague Community Center on Wednesday evenings from 6 - 7 pm. T'ai Chi is no-impact aerobics which promotes mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health by combining physical exercise with relaxation and meditation. There is a ten-week session or walk-ins are welcome at \$12 per session (\$10 for Seniors). For more information call Mae at 543-6605 or e-mail <returntomountain@yahoo.com>.

NORTH COUNTRY TRIATHLON

Randy Engler, Founder, has announced that registration is now open for the 3rd annual North Country Triathlon. The race date is June 27, 2009 and will begin at the Hague Town Beach. For further information or to register, see <www.northcountrytri.com>.

HAGUE CALENDAR

January 2009

- 22 7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals
- 27 1:30 pm Senior Club Meeting



February 2009

- 5 7 pm Planning Board
- 10 6 pm Telecommunications Public Hearing
- 10 6:30 pm Regular Town Board Meeting
- 13 Final DEADLINE for news for next issue
- 14 Happy Valentines Day!
- 14 - 15 HAGUE WINTER WEEKEND - see flyer
- 16 President's Day - Community Center closed
- 19 Next issue of *The Hague Chronicle* mailed

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Wednesday: 9 am to 4 pm
 Saturday: 9 am to 4 pm

ONGOING EVENTS

- 1st Monday: Fire Department (7 pm)
- 2nd Monday: Senior Bus to Glens Falls (8:30 am)
- 3rd Monday: Chamber of Commerce (7 pm)
- 1st & 3rd Tuesdays: Mohican Crafters (10 am)
- 3rd Tuesday: Ticonderoga School Board (7 pm)
- 3rd Tuesday: Fish & Game Club (7:30 pm)
- 3rd Tuesday: Sno-goers
- 4th Wednesday: Extra Helpings Distribution (noon)
- 3rd Thursday: Carillion Garden Club (11 am)
- 1st Friday: Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am)

Every Tuesday: Rotary Club (7:30 am)
 Every Thursday: Kiwanis (12:15 pm)

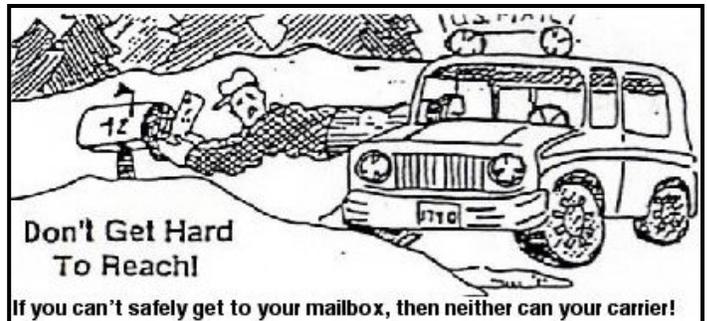
TOWN PARKING STICKERS

Valid Beach Parking Stickers for Town residents are GREEN

The yellow or red stickers are no longer valid

GREEN stickers are available at the Community Center

REMEMBER—USPS NEEDS YOUR HELP



THE HAGUE CHRONICLE
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