LOOKING BACK

by Ginger Henry Kuenzel, president, Hague Historical Society

The Hague Historical Society recently received a heartfelt letter and donation to support our work. The writer, a frequent visitor to Hague for decades, had such extraordinary words of praise for our town and its people that we wanted to share the letter with all of you. She told a great story about a Hague Raiders sweatshirt of yesteryear. But even more importantly, she summed up beautifully what she and so many people recognize: Hague is indeed a very special place.

Local history is a precious commodity worth preserving before it is lost forever. Congratulations on the fine work you are doing to sustain and expand the rich history of Hague and its people. There is no small town in all the world that is dearer to my heart than Hague, having spent so many joyous summer days (and the occasional fall, winter, and spring ones) in its midst. Our family did not have the good fortune to reside there, even seasonally, as we were "serial renters," coming for a few weeks a year for the better part of a century. We deeply admired your setting, your history, your welcoming ways, and your pride in your community, particularly for the Hague Central School, which you are highlighting in 2026.

For many years, carefully tucked away in my home, was a mint-condition grey and red Hague Raiders sweatshirt, circa 1977-78 that I wished I still possessed so that I could send it to you—if only to keep your mannequin warm in between exhibits. Nearly 50 years ago, I bought it from the Hoyts in the Hague Market. I ran into a childhood friend from Hague just outside the store, and I held it up with a smile. "Please don't wear that if you're not from here," my friend said quietly. He was always kind, he was always candid, and this moment did not change that. We don't often recall the exact moment our eyes are opened, but this statement was indelible—even when first absorbing the words, my naivete became apparent. This place, so important and so memorable to millions of visitors, is your home, and you are right to take a protective pride in it. While tourist dollars are an economic boon to the lake region, we tread on your turf, literally and figuratively, when spending them. We are, for lack of a better term, a necessary nuisance. So many of us who deeply love Lake George and Hague feel they are forever a part of who we are, but we cannot be a part of them in any real sense. This special place and the memories of its school and other sacred spaces belong to you who have spent your lives here.

Well, back to the sweatshirt I never wore, not even once. A few years ago, the research institute where I work hosted some visitors from The Hague, Netherlands. I mentioned to our guests that there is a beautiful lakeside hamlet in upstate New York named Hague. They hadn't heard of it but were very intrigued when I happened to mention that the sports teams from Hague's now-defunct school were the Hague Raiders. It seems there had been an American-style football team in The Hague known as the Hague Raiders, which one of the visitors had followed. The next day, on a whim, I gave my Hague Raiders sweatshirt to him. I emailed him yesterday to see how he was doing and if he still had the sweatshirt (I wasn't going to ask for it back, no fear). He replied that their elderly cat had taken a liking to it and often slept in its folds, and one day slept there forever. My Hague Raiders sweatshirt is now buried in a garden in The Hague Netherlands, sheltering a beloved family pet. I'd like to think my old friend would approve.
Before closing, I must share how deeply grateful I am that I was able to spend some of the happiest days of my life in your beautiful corner of the world.

Thank you.

Janet Drobinske

AUGUST 2026 PROGRAMS AT THE DFI

The August lecture series at the Darrin Freshwater Institute (DFI) features three programs exploring Lake George history and ecology:

On **August 3rd**, author Noah Chirnomas will discuss the history and mysteries of Lake George's islands, followed by a book signing.

On **August 10th**, SUNY Cobleskill researchers Andrew Gascho Landis and Abbie Gascho Landis will examine freshwater mussels, their ecological importance, threats to their survival, and conservation efforts.

On **August 17th**, RPI lecturer Jeremy Farrell will present findings from the ALGAE project, which studied 100 sites to identify the conditions influencing nearshore algal growth in Lake George.

HAGUE 4TH QUARTER HONOR ROLL

Grade 2: 100 Club and High Honors - Charleigh McLaughlin
Grade 4: High Honors - Anniyah May
Grade 5: Honors - Elizabeth Gargan and Jackson Porter
Grade 6: Honors - Traeh Andersen and Liam Scoville
Grade 7: First Honors - Noah Mydlarz and Maddison Smith
Grade 9: First Honors - Elena DeFranco
Grade 10: First Honors - James DeFranco
Grade 11: First Honors - Zebulon Denno, Brady Mydlarz, and Kaiden Smith
Second Honors - Breyten Andersen