## LOOKING BACK

*by Hague Historical Society Board Members Shelly Gautreau and Nancy Young*

Hague Chronicle – July 1976

Recreational Facility Survey

*The Warren County Recreational Demand Survey of 1975 established that 50% of the Hague residents interviewed believed that tennis courts are the recreational facilities most needed in the town. Bicycle routes and picnic areas were second and third.*

*Only 37 replies were received to the Chronicle questionnaire: 20 from year-round residents and 17 from "summer" residents. Family members of the respondents totaled 127. While no sound conclusions can be drawn from such a small sampling, it is interesting to note that here, too, respondents favored tennis courts or other recreational facilities.*

*Here is the tabulation:*

| Recreation Activities | Respondents Year-round | Summer | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tennis | 15 | 12 | 27 |
| Movies | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| Picnic Areas | 10 | 8 | 18 |
| Ice Skating | 10 | 7 | 17 |
| Band Concerts | 10 | 7 | 17 |
| Basketball | 8 | 9 | 17 |
| Bicycle | 8 | 7 | 15 |
| Snowmobile | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| Motorcycle | 3 | 2 | 5 |

*On the library/museum questions,the results were as follows:*

| | MUSEUM Year-round | Summer | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 10 | 5 | 15 |
| No | 8 | 8 | 16 |

| | LIBRARY Year-round | Summer | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 11 | 8 | 19 |
| No | 7 | 6 | 13 |

*As to how much should be spent to construct a library/museum, comments range all the way up to $75,000 to "not one cent". A number felt taxes were already too high and several suggested that the town should procure one of the properties which are now for sale and which could be used as a town hall, library, museum, etc. and that the grounds could be used for tennis courts, basketball courts, etc.*

*The questionnaires were mailed to 479 homes; 261 are "summer" residents and 218 are year-round residents. All are property owners and taxpayers. There were not enough replies to establish what a majority of the people want. If the survey proves anything, it is that most people don't care.*

**50 years later**

The Town of Hague conducted a new survey in 2025. The Community Survey Summary resulted in 248 responses. The conclusion at the end of the survey states: "Hague residents clearly value their community's natural beauty, lakefront access, and small-town atmosphere. However, they see significant challenges in economic vitality, infrastructure, and tax equity that threatens long-term sustainability. The community appears ready for thoughtful, balanced development that preserves Hague's character, while creating more opportunities for businesses, year-round residents, and diverse recreational activities."

The Silver Bay Association now offers many of the recreational activities at low cost or free to Hague residents.

As for the museum, ours is an exceedingly small room with limited space and is not suitable for displaying all the wonderful history our town has to offer our own residents and those who come here to visit.

Clearly, the same goes for a library. Yes, one can travel to surrounding towns in search of other libraries, museums, concert venues, movie theaters, etc. By now, we could and should aspire to preserve our history and our town for those of us who live here and those who will find a new "home" here in the future.

*This will be the last Looking Back column written by Shelly Gautreau and Nancy Young.* The Hague Chronicle *thanks them for all the work they did writing the column since May 2024.*

## TOWN OF PUTNAM PLANNING BOARD

*The Hague Chronicle* is continuing to monitor developments in the Town of Putnam regarding the proposed plans to repeal the Putnam Site Plan Review Law and to abolish its planning board and to transfer its responsibilities to the town board.

At its meeting on March 12, 2026, the Town of Putnam Town Board rescinded its February vote to abolish the Putnam Town Planning Board after Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky, PE, raised concerns about the decision's compliance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

During the last two weeks in March and the first week of April, the Lake George community spoke out about the fact that the proposed changes in the Town of Putnam could affect development oversight and water quality protections.

The Putnam Town Board held a significant meeting on April 9th, to discuss the proposed repeal of Putnam's Site Plan Review Law and the potential abolition of Putnam's Planning Board, following prior meetings in February and March 2026.

Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky, PE, attended the meeting in

*(Continued on p. 10)*