LOOKING BACK

by Hague Historical Society Board Members Shelly Gautreau and Nancy Young

Hague Chronicle – April 2001 – 25 years ago

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple or pine in pineapple. And while no one knows what is in a hotdog, you can be pretty sure it isn't canine. English muffins were not invented in England nor French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies, while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

Why do people ship by truck or car and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? Park on driveways and drive on parkways? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? How can weather be hot as heck one day and cold as heck another?

When a house burns up, it burns down. You fill in a form by filling it out and an alarm clock goes off by going on. You get in and out of a car, yet you get on and off a bus. When the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

And why, when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I end it?

Yessireee...that's our own muther tungue.

...Thanks to Stu Harmon

25 YEARS LATER

Contronyms are words that can have two opposite meanings depending on context. They are also known as Janus Words. Janus was an ancient Roman god with two faces that looked in opposite directions. When paired with humor, they become "silly contronym ponderables" – questions or statements that are both funny and thought provoking. They enhance linguistic awareness and vocabulary, encourage creative thinking and humor, and provide mental exercises in logic and context interpretation. *

Would a fly without wings be called a walk? Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii? If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked? If you are expecting the unexpected, how will you know when the unexpected comes if you don't know what the unexpected is?

Can you daydream at night? Do stairs go up or down? Why do psychics have to ask you for your name? Isn't it a bit unnerving that doctors call what they do "practice?" Why do they report power outages on TV? Can you be a closet claustrophobic?

Is it possible to be totally partial? How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink? What is a "free" gift? If the #2 pencil is the most popular, why is it still #2? When someone sanctions a rule, are they approving it or punishing it? How can something be "new" and "improved" at the same time? If the Energizer Bunny was arrested, would he be charged with battery?

We are hoping you have a wonderful day, a warm spring, and a very Happy Easter!

*Merriam Webster

LGLC GALA HONORARY COMMITTEE

Hosted onboard the historic Lac du St. Sacrement, this year's Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) Gala will offer an unforgettable evening cruise to see firsthand the beauty of the mountains and forests permanently protected by the LGLC.



The gala is the LGLC's most important fundraising event, made possible, in large part, by the dedication and generosity of its Honorary Committee.

By providing support for its mission of permanently protecting the land that protects Lake George, these treasured lands, critical to the water quality, natural habitat, and the scenic beauty of Lake George, can remain protected forever.

General tickets to attend the gala will be available in May, but seats can be reserved now with a special commitment to the Honorary Committee at https://lglc.org/gala/ .

EARTH DAY CLEANUP

On **April 22, 2026 from 8:30 to 11 am,** the Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) will celebrate Earth Day with a litter cleanup at The Pinnacle Preserve in Bolton. They'll clear trash from the parking area and along Edgecomb Pond Road; other nearby locations may also be included. More information can be found at https://lglc.org/event/20260422 .



SPRING HIKING

When hiking this time of year, trails can be everything from mildly messy to hazardous, due to the rapidly melting snow and ice.

Hiking on muddy, wet trails can also cause erosion and otherwise damage the trails the Lake George Land Conservancy works so hard to maintain for public use.

Please follow this advice from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC):

- Stick to low-elevation hiking trails.
- Avoid hiking on any trails during periods of significant rainfall.
- If hiking on muddy or flooded trails, stay in the center of the trail to prevent erosion. The center of the trail can sustain boot prints.

For more information, go to https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hiking/hike-smart-ny .