

LOOKING BACK



by Hague Historical Society Board Members
Shelly Gautreau and Nancy Young

EXCERPTS FROM *THE HAGUE CHRONICLE* MAY 1975 (50 YEARS AGO)

FLOOD INSURANCE

The adoption of a resolution on flood insurance by the Town Board at its meeting on April 15 will qualify residents of potential flood plain areas for subsidized Federal Flood insurance.

While Hague Brook has from time to time overflowed its banks during the early spring, the only really serious flooding occurred on June 3, 1947. A newspaper account of the day began: "Hague Brook, normally a peaceful trout stream running through this resort community, went berserk during the torrential rainstorm Monday night and early Tuesday morning, overflowing its banks and causing damage of many thousands of dollars. Two garages were wrecked, an automobile demolished, tourist cabins flooded and the macadam highway leading over Graphite Mountain ripped and torn. One of the hardest hit by the torrents of water, rushing a foot deep down the highway and over the main bridge on Route 9N, was Cobbs Cabins. The main building at the establishment was also damaged, its foundation partially washed away, and two gasoline pumps ripped out by the force of the raging stream."

One old-time resident said he had lived in Hague for fifty years and never before (and, we might add, never since) has the stream overflowed its banks except very mildly.

This entire account can be read in the June 12, 1947, *Ticonderoga Sentinel* newspaper.

ONE YEAR LATER

Excerpts from the *Ticonderoga Sentinel*, July 14, 1976: (The entire account is available online.)

An "Act of God" wrought havoc on the lakeside village of Hague Sunday night as rains caused extensive flooding of the Hague Brook.

Town and state highways crews worked throughout Monday morning to clear the collected debris and washed-out portions of Route 8, blocking traffic most of the way up the hill from the Route 9N intersection.

The rains came down from about 5 p.m. until 11 p.m. Frank Rivers of Forest Bay near Hague measured the rainfall in his rain gauge to be four and 9/10 inches overnight.

Houses were flooded, trailers moved, cars wrecked, and garages moved.

One garage opposite the Hague Supermarket was moved from its foundation down to the bridge over the Hague Brook over the intersection of Route 9N where water spewed out into the road. The macadam there buckled and the By Water Motel and Coffee Shop received excess water and dirt.

The Hague Supermarket also received extensive damage, estimated at \$10,000 by owner Robert Hoyt.

The parsonage of the Hague Wesleyan Church was also extensively damaged.

The Green Acres Campsite near Graphite also received extensive flooding. There, one trailer was moved from its foundation, another completely flooded, and several cars (were) completely inundated with mud and debris.

Water in the brook was estimated 15 feet above normal levels. The road up Graphite Hill was severely eroded in two positions as water rose over the tops of bridges and on to the macadam.

Fred Stone, assistant resident engineer for the New York State Department of Transportation said that repair work will continue over the next few days. He said the road will be closed from the base of the hill up to Green Acres Campsite until it can be repaired.

What more can be said? Never say "never," especially when dealing with Mother Nature! ❑

LGA FLOATING CLASSROOM

Floating Classroom tickets are available for summer public and *All About Water Quality* programs.

The Lake George Association (LGA) will be hosting public programs in Bolton, Hague, and Ticonderoga as well.

Click [HERE](#) to purchase tickets.

For more information or to book a private program, please email Lindsey Kenna [HERE](#). ❑



MASON/STAR DINNER

A 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 open to the public on Friday, May 23, 2025, from 4:30 to 6 pm at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street, Ticonderoga (across from the Stone House). Take-outs will be available. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 years old and under and will be available at the door. Parking will be along Montcalm Street and in the Hancock House parking lot. ❑