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LOCAL RESIDENTS OPEN A MERCANTILE IN TI

Hague residents Joann and Tony Cartiglia have opened a 5,000-square-foot mercantile at their toy brand, *The Queen's Treasures*, headquarters, located at 162 The Portage in Ticonderoga.

The retail space features antiques, fine used furniture, curated home décor, gourmet goodies, gifts, gift baskets, old-fashioned candy, toys, dolls, and their licensed line of *Little House on the Prairie* products.



For more information, go to their website [HERE](#).

Locals always receive a 10% discount.

The Carniglias also host special "Eat-Your-Way-Through-the-Store" events on holiday weekends where visitors can sample gourmet products in their prepared form.

Their next event will be held on **Saturday, September 5, 2026 from 10 am to 4 pm.** ▣

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) UPDATE

by Chair Jack Bast

Equalization Rate

In February, the Town of Hague applied to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance for a special equalization rate to correct what it believes is an unfair division of school taxes within the Ticonderoga Central School District (TCSD).

The town submitted additional evidence in April and May and made an urgent appeal on August 11, 2026 for action in time to affect the 2026–2027 school tax rate.

On June 14th, the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services (ORPTS) denied the application. The town believes the decision relied on a narrow calculation that failed to recognize a significant distortion in the tax base used to divide TCSD school taxes.

As the September issue of *The Hague Chronicle* goes to press, the town is preparing an appeal. It has 14 calendar days to request a redetermination and submit the reasons and evidence supporting its position.

Complaint to the Comptroller

On June 12th, Supervisor Josh Patchett filed a complaint with the New York State Office of the State Comptroller alleging four systemic and legal failures by TCSD that have unfairly increased Hague taxpayers' share of the school tax levy. The town requested immediate action on August 11th.

The Comptroller's Office advised the town on August 12th that it would not audit TCSD this year. However, at the town's urging, the assigned auditor's office stated it will seriously consider Hague's request when planning future audits and will try to prioritize a TCSD audit in 2027.

Potential BESS Project

Brookfield Corporation and New York State are considering a \$100 million Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in Ticonderoga.

On August 7th, Patchett notified the TCSD, its Board of Education (BoE), and the Town of Ticonderoga that Hague strongly opposes the project. If it proceeds, Hague believes tax breaks and other financial benefits for the developer should be minimized, particularly if they shift costs to other taxpayers.

The town is especially concerned that a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement could adversely affect the school taxes for the taxpayers of both Hague and Ticonderoga. Consistent with Hague Town Board Resolution #91 of 2024, Hague requested consultation before any financial agreement affecting its taxpayers is approved. The town also requested timely notice of and participation in related financial discussions and Industrial Development Agency proceedings.

(Continued on p. 3)

SENIOR CLUB NEWS

by Mike Kowalsky

In addition to the wonderful August weather, Senior Club members enjoyed each other's company on two get-aways.

On August 6, 2026, a journey over the mountain to the village of Lake George, a one-hour cruise on the Minne Ha-Ha steamship, and lunch at the Olde Log Inn gave us a chance to be tourists for a day. August 13th featured a tour of the Old Fort House Museum in Fort Edward, a fascinating step back to pre-Civil War New York. The five building interiors are meticulously recreated with artifacts from the era of their origin.

One highlight of the tour was stepping into the room once rented by Solomon Northup and the story of how he came to write his memoir, *Twelve Years a Slave*, which was adapted into an Oscar-nominated movie in 2013. Once again, our seniors have received a history lesson from what may be one



of our area's best-kept secrets.

Game night will resume on **September 9th at 6:30 pm** at the home of Pat Hintze.

On **September 17th**, the annual Snowbird Dinner will be held at the Brown Swan Lodge Restaurant in Schroon Lake. The time has arrived for us to say goodbye to our friends who choose to go south and to not try to

brave the cold winter months here in our town...and who can blame them!

The club will be travelling to Crandall Park in Glens Falls on **September 19th** to the opening ceremonies of the

Adirondack Balloon Festival to watch several balloons fill with hot air and take off in the late afternoon sky. Contact Pat Hintze to sign up for these events.

On **September 22nd at 1:30 pm**, the Senior Club meeting will be held at the Hague Community Center to nominate officers for the year 2027. All members are urged to attend.

So, it's goodbye to summer and let's look forward to a colorful fall! 🍂

HVFD

by Donna Trudeau



The Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) was extremely busy in the month of July. We had 53 calls, combined with seven drills, and four stand-bys for a total of 420.5 volunteer and paid man hours.

We had the pleasure of standing by for Music in the Park and participated in the Silver Bay annual fireworks (which was amazing) and the Fourth of July parade in Ticonderoga.

We have used our marine rescue boat a few times for water calls.

We are planning a community/employee CPR class on a date to be determined.

We are always looking for more volunteers! Stop by or look on our Facebook page for an application. We need active and support volunteers!

We still have raffle tickets left for a chance at the chain saw and equipment for \$10 each. We will be drawing the winner at our town wide yard sale on Columbus Day weekend. 🍂

MARTUCCI'S PRESENTS LIVE MUSIC

Martucci's Restaurant and Lounge at the Northern Lake George Resort will present live music by Shannon Tingley on **September 4, 5, and 6, 2026 from 5:30 - 8:30 pm**.

A math teacher by day, Tingley performs soulful vocals and a variety of classics and crowd favorites on guitar, piano, ukulele, and percussion. The three-hour performances are free and open to the public.

Martucci's is located at 8074 Lakeshore Drive in Silver Bay. The performances were organized by the Grencher Foundation. 🍂



THANK YOU TO MAUREEN IANUZZI

Maureen Ianuzzi has been a skilled and dedicated proofreader of *The Hague Chronicle* since January of 2025. By catching every error, no matter how big or small, she made us all look good. You will be sorely missed, Maureen!

If you or someone you know would like to join our staff as a proofreader, please email Bobbi Bryant Taylor at editor@thehaguechronicle.org. Thanks!

STAR CREDIT CHECKS ARE COMING

Homeowners, keep an eye on your mailbox! STAR credit checks should be arriving soon, just in time for the September school tax bills.

If you receive a STAR credit check, please remember that your school tax bill is still paid directly to Anne Michalak, as always. The STAR credit check is sent separately to you by New York State.

All school tax payments should be made to Anne Michalak.

PAY IN PERSON: TCSD District Offices, Amherst Avenue, Ticonderoga, NY

MAIL PAYMENTS TO: Anne Michalak, Ticonderoga Schools, 5 Calkins Place, Ticonderoga, NY 12883

QUESTIONS? Call Anne Michalak at 518-585-7400, ext. 1132

Please remember: Your STAR credit check is separate from your school tax bill. Receiving a STAR check does not mean your school tax bill has been paid. Please make sure your school taxes are paid directly to Anne Michalak by the deadline shown on your bill.

Thank you, and be sure to watch your mailbox! ▣

SAC UPDATE, CONT'D

School Tax Levy

The following tax rates were announced at the August 18th TCSD Board of Education meeting:

- Hague: \$8.20667505 per \$1,000 of assessed value
- Ticonderoga: \$7.46504153 per \$1,000 of assessed value

This apportionment results in Hague paying 56.6% of the school tax levy.

The regular September TCSD Board of Education meeting is scheduled for **September 15th at 6 pm** in the Ticonderoga High School cafeteria. Hague residents are encouraged to attend. ▣



An aerial view of the wreck of the John Jay, just north of Hague Bay. Courtesy of Luke Dow Photography

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 7/16/2026

Present were Chairman Robert Goetsch and Board Members Chris Richards, Oliver Gourley, Thomas LaPointe, and Tina Barth-King. Also present were Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) Ed Kirchberger, Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello, Ann Shakeshaft, Ginger Henry Kuenzel, Nancy Young, Kim Bryant, Hannah Darrin, David Darrin, Alane Vogel, and the Brown property manager, Mr. Hutchins.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Brown Shoreline Variances, 23-29 Abenakis Drive

The board continued the public hearing on four after-the-fact variances involving stone walls within the shoreline setback. The application included a shoreline wall, a 70-foot wall north of the house, a 22-foot wall south of the house, and a wall near the southern steps measuring approximately five to seven feet high. The project also requires site plan review for shoreline stairs.

Zoning Issues: Walls within 50 feet of the shoreline, a wall exceeding four feet in height, removal of shoreline vegetation, and development within 100 feet of Lake George.

The Hague Planning Board recommended approval of the variances with conditions intended to restore a shoreline buffer and screen the walls with native vegetation.

No one spoke in favor of the application. Several residents opposed granting after-the-fact variances and expressed concerns about the removal of trees, the addition of large boulders, the lack of a shoreline buffer, environmental impacts, and future enforcement. Speakers also questioned whether approving the variances would encourage other property owners to proceed without permits.

Kirchberger explained that the Town of Hague oversees land-use matters under Adirondack Park Agency authority, while the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) regulates water-related issues. Hutchins said an LGPC representative had been visiting the property regularly to monitor the work.

Hannah Darrin questioned whether the proposed three-inch-diameter trees would survive and suggested that species be selected for long-term viability. Hutchins said no fertilizer was being used and only natural oils were being applied for insect control. He also reported that five replacement trees had recently been planted.

Following extensive discussion, the board unanimously closed the public hearing.

OLD BUSINESS

Brown Shoreline Variances

The board considered whether to deny the variances or approve them with corrective conditions. Kirchberger recommended removing as many shoreline boulders as

possible to create planting areas and establishing a wider buffer to reduce runoff into Lake George.

Barth-King moved to deny all four variances. LaPointe seconded the motion, which failed (2-3), with Goetsch, Richards, and Gourley opposed.

Richards then moved to approve Variances 02-26, 04-26, 05-26, and 06-26 with two conditions:

1. The applicant must remove as many rocks as possible from the seawall to create planting pockets for native vegetation, without lowering the wall.
2. A 15-foot-deep shoreline buffer must be installed from the rear edge of the seawall. It must include at least 14 trees measuring a minimum of three inches in diameter at breast height, divided equally between deciduous and coniferous varieties, along with native shrubs and perennials throughout the shoreline.

The board determined that the variances were substantial, would affect the neighborhood and environmental conditions, and resulted from a self-created difficulty. However, the majority concluded that conditional approval provided the most practical way to improve the existing shoreline.

The variances were approved (3-2), with Barth-King and LaPointe opposed.

NEW BUSINESS AND REFERRALS FROM THE PLANNING BOARD

Quinlan Area Variances, 13 Bayberry Lane

The applicant proposes a 521-square-foot addition to an existing 576-square-foot home.

Zoning Issues: Rear setback and lot coverage.

Because the applicant was absent and the application remained incomplete, the board postponed its review, likely until the next meeting.

This article was written by the editor of The Hague Chronicle from draft minutes of the Hague Zoning Board of Appeals. ■

PLANNING BOARD - 8/6/2026

Present were Acting Chairperson Henry Friedman and Board Members Pamela Peterson, Alane Vogel, Chris Navitsky, and Alternate Jami Jordan. Chairperson Sandra Powell was absent. Also present were Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) Ed Kirchberger, Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello, Robert Quinlan, Josh Patchett, Kate Bullock, Bruce MacPherson, and surveyor Kristin Darrah.

PLANNING BOARD, CONT'D

NEW BUSINESS

Quinlan, 13 Bayberry Lane, Advisory Opinion

Robert Quinlan proposed a 571-square-foot addition to an existing 576-square-foot Cape Cod Village home.

Zoning Issues: Rear setback and lot coverage.

Quinlan said the addition would accommodate visiting grandchildren. He received favorable feedback from the Cape Cod Village Board and permitted members of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals to visit the marked property.

Board members discussed stormwater runoff, lot coverage, and the rear setback. Quinlan said a second-story addition was impractical because he and his wife have mobility issues.

The board will review the site visit findings in September and make an advisory recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals, possibly with conditions. A public hearing is expected before that board in September.

Lakeside Regional Church, Site Plan 08-26

The church proposed an approximately 64-square-foot covered overhang above its entrance.

Zoning Issue: Development within 100 feet of a brook.

Josh Patchett, representing the church, said the overhang would improve safety, particularly for elderly members. No vegetation would be removed. Kirchberger reported that the property is no longer within the flood fringe area and Warren County had no comments.

The board determined that a site visit and public hearing were unnecessary. It unanimously declared the application complete, assumed lead agency status, and issued a negative State Environmental Quality Review declaration. The application was approved (5-0), with the condition that any future exterior lighting be downward-facing and shielded.

SUBDIVISIONS

Bullock, 6 and 0 Chipwick Lane, SUB 02-26

Kate Bullock requested a minor lot line adjustment transferring the garage at 0 Chipwick Lane to 6 Chipwick Lane.

Kirchberger reported that the Adirondack Park Agency determined the proposal did not require its approval. The resulting lot would retain more than 100 feet of frontage, and the transfer involves less than one-quarter acre.

The board approved the application (5-0), conditioned upon Bullock providing the ZEO with a full mylar map showing all metes and bounds within 60 days.

Fusco, 20 Silver Bay Road, SUB 03-26

Linda Fusco proposed selling 0.03 acre to neighboring property owner Bruce MacPherson. Both lots would

remain conforming, allowing the transfer to qualify as a lot line adjustment rather than a subdivision.

MacPherson, representing Fusco, said he had no plans to enlarge the existing dock and intended to retain a vegetative buffer. The board determined that neither a site visit nor a public hearing was necessary.

After correcting the environmental assessment form to show that the property is within the Lake George Critical Environmental Area, the board unanimously declared the application complete, assumed lead agency status, issued a negative State Environmental Quality Review declaration, and approved it.

McMahon, New Hague Road/Summit Drive/ Cold Water Canyon Road

The applicant proposed dividing a 50-acre parcel into seven lots, reduced from the original eight.

Kristin Darrah of Darrah Land Surveying presented updated maps, an Adirondack Park Agency determination, a soils report, and an environmental assessment form. The maps showed wetlands, streams, test pits, large trees, rock outcrops, and proposed access points.

Because the proposal is a major subdivision, a public hearing and site visits will be required. Board members requested clearer markings for lot lines and driveways and evidence that each lot is buildable.

The board also discussed streams, driveway grades, wetlands, rock outcrops, culverts, possible restrictions against further subdivision, and whether the property is within a critical environmental area. Darrah suggested reconfiguring Lots six and seven to move the boundary farther from a large rock outcrop.

The public hearing will be scheduled after additional information is reviewed and Chairperson Powell is consulted. The board unanimously tabled the application until September.

OTHER BUSINESS

Kirchberger reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals approved the Brown shoreline variances with conditions, although the Adirondack Park Agency might reverse the decision. The application may return to the Planning Board for site plan review in September. Additional enforceable conditions are being requested from the applicants.

This article was written by the editor of The Hague Chronicle from draft minutes of the Hague Planning Board. ■

TOWN BOARD - 8/11/2026

Present were Board Members Jack Bast, Maureen Cherubini, and Edna Frasier and Supervisor Josh Patchett. Board Member Lara Smith was absent. Also present were Deputy Supervisor Sally DeLarm Rypkema, Highway Superintendent Chad Dunklee, and Town Clerk Kim Coffin.

TOWN BOARD, CONT'D

The board observed a moment of silence for Janet Hanna. It approved the warrant totaling \$249,017.21.

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Highway (Frasier/Cherubini): Work continued on improvements to the highway garage. Demolition of the old garage was scheduled to begin August 12th, followed by removal of the existing concrete. The Highway Department plans to pave Spring Rock Road, Pine Orchard, Union Cemetery Road, Sunset, and the highway garage parking lot from late September through early October.

Museum/Historian (Bast/Smith): The Hague Historical Society's August 3rd presentation, *Loyalists in the North Country*, was well attended. Work continues on the *Pictorial History of Hague*, which may be available next summer.

The society asked the town to make a comprehensive needs assessment and engineering study of the Hague Community Center a signature project. The study would address code compliance, accessibility, sprinklers, vault enlargement, and museum expansion.

Personnel (Bast/Cherubini): The town is seeking an alternate for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Applications should be submitted to the Hague Community Center.

Recreation/Promotion/Youth (Smith): Patchett reported that Silver Camp would conclude August 14th. The program is funded equally by the Town of Hague and Silver Bay YMCA.

Sewer (Smith/Patchett): Bast continued working with Tower Generators to resolve problems with the Cape Cod Village generator.

Town Park/Beautification (Smith/Frasier): Frasier reported that the geese appeared to have left the town beach, leaving the beach and picnic areas cleaner.

School Advisory Committee (Bast): Hague submitted urgent appeals to the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services and Office of the State Comptroller seeking action before the Ticonderoga Central School District establishes its 2026–2027 tax rate. Hague maintains that the current apportionment places an unfair share of the school tax levy on its taxpayers.

Hague also continued opposing the proposed conversion of the Champlain Hudson Power Express project's Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement to a Host Community Agreement. Concerns include the project's limited operation, lost revenue, and the possibility that future payment reductions could affect municipal and school budgets.

The town opposes a proposed \$100 million Battery Energy Storage System project in Ticonderoga. If the project proceeds, Hague is seeking a role in any financial agreement that could shift costs to its taxpayers.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Patchett sent National Grid a letter requesting removal of dead and diseased trees near transmission lines following numerous power outages. He emphasized the need for reliable power for heating, emergency communications, medical equipment, and residents working from home.

Patchett also sent Ticonderoga officials a letter expressing Hague's opposition to the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and concerns about its potential financial effects on Hague taxpayers.

NEW BUSINESS

The board unanimously:

- Hired Kelley Noel as Zoning Enforcement Clerk, effective July 27th, at \$20 per hour, with a possible increase following a favorable 90-day review.
- Reduced Woodfern LLC's 2027 Sewer District No. 2 assessment from 3.0 to 2.33 equivalent dwelling units. A decision on the Carney appeal was tabled pending a site visit.
- Approved up to \$1,800 for Michael Galow and Linda Fusco to attend the Rural Schools Association Conference in December.
- Authorized a \$1,450 contract with Studio A Landscape, Architecture and Engineering for third-party value engineering and construction guidance for the Hague Performance Pavilion.
- Transferred \$115,502 from the highway fund balance to complete funding for the previously approved \$146,532 John Deere wheel loader.
- Created a revenue account to receive an Engineering Planning Grant for a third sewer district feasibility study.
- Approved designating the driveway at the Hague Boat Launch as a no-parking fire lane.

During privilege of the floor, residents discussed advertising signs, delivery-truck parking, speeding, food trucks parked in the boat launch fire lane, nonfunctioning streetlights, and a political flyer. Dunklee agreed to investigate the traffic, parking, and signage concerns.

The board entered executive session at 7:25 pm to discuss a personnel matter and adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next Hague Town Board meeting will be held September 8, 2026, at 6 pm.

This article was written by the editor of The Hague Chronicle from draft minutes of the Hague Town Board. ■

HAGUE CHRONICLE NEWS:

Please send all news items to Editor Bobbi Bryant Taylor at: editor@thehaguechronicle.org.

BROOKWOOD RV

In the Barn at Brookwood RV in Ticonderoga, on **Sunday, September 6, 6 – 8 pm** *Loose Monkeys* will perform. 📍

2026 FARMERS MARKET

The Ticonderoga Area Farmers Market will continue to be held Saturdays from 9 am to noon at the intersection of McCormick Street and Champlain Avenue in downtown Ticonderoga.

Several special events are planned in September including:

- **September 5th:** Community Non-Profit Day
- **September 26th from 12 pm – 3 pm:** FallFest, live music in Bicentennial Park from **12 pm – 3pm** and **5 pm – 8 pm**

Music at the market in September will include:

- **September 5th:** *Uncle Joe*
- **September 12th:** *The Loose Monkeys*
- **September 19th:** *The Dons*

For more information, go to www.ticonderogany.com/farmers-market/ 📍

The Hague Chronicle is happy to publish announcements of births, marriages, graduations, anniversaries of 50/55/60/65+, awards, or deaths in Soundings. We can include a high quality photo.

Our submission deadline for Soundings, and all other articles, is 6 pm the 20th of each month, for inclusion in the following month's issue.

Please send to editor@thehaguechronicle.org.

SILVER BAY YMCA HAPPENINGS

The Psychedelics will perform on **Saturday, September 5, 2026 at 8 pm** in the auditorium.

The Silver Bay Mountain Music Festival will be held **September 11 -13, 2026** *Amy Gallatin and Stillwaters* will open the festival with a



fresh approach to bluegrass featuring powerful vocals, close harmonies, and outstanding musicianship.

For information and tickets, visit www.silverbay.org/mountain-music-festival.

Silver Bay YMCA's 2025 Annual Report is available online [HERE](#). 📍

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by HHS President Ginger Henry Kuenzel

The Hague Historical Society (HHS) hosted a presentation by Brian O'Connor on August 3, 2026 entitled *Loyalists in the North Country*. Although we hear a lot about the patriots and their battle to overthrow the king, this fascinating presentation provided attendees insight into the people throughout the colonies who remained loyal to King George. To watch the narrated presentation, click [HERE](#).

The HHS continues to hope that a museum is in the town's future so that it can better share Hague's rich history with residents and visitors alike. However, before such a project can move forward, there are a number of steps that must be undertaken.

Town Councilman Jack Bast (the liaison between the town board and the HHS) read the following appeal from the HHS Board to the town board at its August meeting:

As a matter of increasing urgency, we respectfully ask the town board to pursue funding for an engineering study of the community center building. Such a study is necessary before the town can meaningfully address the needs for museum and vault expansion.

It appears that no significant changes can be made to the building until it is brought up to code. A major component of that work is the installation of a sprinkler system. Currently, a fire could destroy all town records dating back to 1807. An engineering study would

identify, among other things, the work needed to bring the building into compliance. The historical society board believes this should be a top priority for the town.

Although a feasibility study for museum expansion is listed as a signature project in the latest Comprehensive Plan Update, this does not address the underlying issue: The museum cannot be expanded until the community center is code-compliant. What is needed instead is a comprehensive study of the community center's needs, including, among other things, handicap accessibility, a sprinkler system, vault enlargement, and museum expansion. None of these needs is adequately addressed in the current list of Comprehensive Plan signature projects.

We therefore ask that the town add and actively pursue a "Comprehensive Community Center Needs Assessment and Engineering Study" as a signature project. We also hope the town board will recognize the significant difference in priority between the visitor center and the community center. The visitor center is used primarily by visitors (with the possible exception of the restrooms) and primarily during the summer. The community center, by contrast, is used not only for town business but also by a wide range of community residents and organizations year-round as well as for critical records storage.

For the reasons outlined above — particularly public safety, preservation of historic town records, accessibility, and the building's importance to the community — we believe that a focus on the needs of the community center should be a top priority. 📍

NEWS FROM THE LAKE GEORGE ASSOCIATION (LGA)

by LGA board member and Hague resident Ginger Henry Kuenzel

Wine Pairing Benefit Dinner at Lake George Club to Benefit LGA's Work

The LGA will host a special wine-pairing benefit dinner at the [Lake George Club](#) on **Tuesday, September 15th**. Open to the public, the evening will begin at **6 pm** and will feature wines from [Kistler Vineyards](#) paired with a multi-course dinner prepared by Lake George Club Executive Chef Desmond Smith. The dinner is \$255 per person, including tax and gratuity. Seating is limited, and advance reservations are required. To reserve, call 518-668-5734 or email reservations@thelakegeorgeclub.com. Payment will be collected at the door by cash or check payable to the Lake George Club. Guests are encouraged to reserve early, as seating is limited.

Annual Meeting Held August 8th:

This year's LGA Annual Meeting brought together freshwater leaders, scientists, elected officials, community partners, and supporters for a morning focused on one shared priority: protecting Lake George for generations to come. NYS DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton and author and water scientist Dr. Peter Gleick provided extremely informative keynote addresses.

President and CEO Dr. Brendan Wiltse unveiled the [2026-2030 LGA Strategic Plan](#) and how that strategy is being translated into action. More than \$1 million in grants and investments to support Lake George projects were recognized. In addition, John Strough and Tim Shudt were honored for their actions, which have left a lasting mark on Lake George. Click [HERE](#) to read the full report.

2025 Annual Report:

For 140 years — since 1885 — the LGA has adapted to meet the challenges of its time. The stories in this year's LGA Annual Report

demonstrate how science, partnerships, and community can create lasting change across decades. To download the Annual Report, click [HERE](#).

Upcoming New York State Salt Summit:

The Town of Hague and its highway crew have benefited immensely for more than a decade from grants, expertise, and other support from the LGA aimed at reducing the town's use of road salt. As reported extensively over the years in past articles in *The Hague Chronicle*, Hague has reduced its use of road salt by more than half, benefiting taxpayers as well as the environment — all while maintaining road safety. Our highway crew has also served as a model for other towns, sharing its experience and expertise with others.

On **October 8, 2026, from 8 am to 4 pm**, the LGA and Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky will host the 11th Annual Salt Summit. In an effort to strengthen statewide collaboration and engagement with policymakers, state agencies, municipal leaders, and communities across New York, the summit will move from Lake George to the Albany region. This aligns ideally with an important element of the LGA's recently released 2026-2030 strategy: advocacy. To register, go [HERE](#).

Long-term research conducted by the LGA and the Jefferson Project shows that chloride levels in Lake George, a drinking water source for many, has *tripled* over the past 40 years. Elevated salinity can lead to Harmful Algal Blooms.

What can you do to help? While the Lake George Road Salt Reduction Initiative is considered by many to be a model for the public sector nationwide, research finds that as much as half of the excessive salt use in Lake George and other places comes from private residential and business properties.

- To learn what you can do on your property to reduce salt use, click [HERE](#). Scroll down to "Priority Actions for Residents and Small Businesses."

- To learn about progress in the Lake George watershed, click [HERE](#).

Harmful algal blooms (HABs):

While the HAB threat to Lake George is currently low, we need to remain vigilant. As temperatures rise, other waterbodies are already experiencing toxic cyanobacteria. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about HABs, what the LGA is doing to address this issue, and how you can identify and report a HAB. ▣

NEWS FROM THE LAKE GEORGE LAND CONSERVANCY (LGLC)

LGLC Gala

The LGLC held its 2026 Gala aboard the Lac du Saint Sacrement on Friday, July 31, 2026 with nearly 300 guests in attendance. The sold-out event generated more than \$580,000 for permanent land protection. Guests cruised by some of the properties permanently protected by the LGLC, including the 42-acre Wiawaka Uplands conservation easement and 517-acre Pilot Knob Mountain. This year's gala focused on raising funds for the LGLC's \$1.8-million campaign to purchase Mud Pond West, near Gull Bay in the northern basin. At 431 acres, Mud Pond West is one of the largest, privately owned and undeveloped parcels remaining in the Lake George watershed. To learn more about the Mud Pond West campaign, click [HERE](#).

New Stewardship Coordinator

Matthew Sieber-Ford has joined the LGLC as Stewardship Coordinator. Sieber-Ford first joined the LGLC as its 2026 summer Stewardship Intern and will remain on staff in this new full-time position. He will assist with various projects to manage and maintain LGLC properties and preserves, including trail maintenance, invasive species management and assisting in the development of management plans. He has also been overseeing the multi-year forest restoration project at the Cook Mountain Preserve in Ticonderoga that began earlier this summer.

(Continued on p. 10)

LOOKING BACK

1927 LAKE GEORGE SWIMMING MARATHON

by Ginger Henry Kuenzel



Just a few weeks ago, Hague was abuzz with the Open Water Swim. Here we look back at a Hague swim from the more distant past. The year was 1927. Prohibition was in full swing. Calvin Coolidge was president. Hague Central School had just held its first graduation. And the Lake George Swimming Marathon was making headlines. Most people are not aware of this historic event — which is amazing when one considers that it drew 146 competitors from six countries and nearly every U.S. state, that several of the swimmers were world record holders, and that heavy-weight boxing champion Jack Dempsey traveled to Hague to fire the starting pistol.

The marathon drew approximately 100,000 spectators, according to newspaper reports of the day. Charles Gelman of the now-defunct Merkel and Gelman Stores of Glens Falls and Lake George noted, "It turned national attention on Lake George."

July 12, the day of the marathon, dawned as a scorcher. An estimated 5,000 spectators in Hague alone lined the beaches for the start. Among the spectators was Clifton West, former Hague historian, who was 18 and had just graduated from the new Hague Central School. "There were people everywhere," he recalled. "But I think they were more interested in seeing Jack Dempsey than they were in the swimmers."

The dock at the Trout House was a bustle of activity as boats arrived and departed, dropping off contestants and officials. With each approaching boat, a cry went up from the crowd as they waited in anxious anticipation for Jack Dempsey to disembark. When his boat finally arrived, state troopers had to clear the multitudes from the dock to make way for the sports hero. West remembered that so many people had crowded onto the platform leading out to the pier that it gave way when Dempsey stepped onto it, sending him and about a dozen of his fans into the ankle-deep water. Dempsey was unscathed, though his fashionable shoes were soaked through. He reportedly grinned and carried on with his business — getting the race started.

Champion swimmer Lotte Schoemmel had traveled by train all the way from California. When her train finally arrived at the Lake George station, the boat that was to carry her to Hague had departed. No matter. The determined Schoemmel hitched a ride on an aquatic plane, touching down in Hague with just minutes to spare before the start of the event.

Fortunately, Schoemmel didn't require much time to suit up for the race. In fact, she required NO time. Schoemmel, it seems, was the originator of the "grease bathing suit" which had caused quite a stir and more than just a few raised eyebrows at previous events around the globe. According to the official program for the Lake George Swimming Marathon, it had been decided in advance that the grease bathing suit would be considered "suit"-able for this race. Rule #12 stated: "Any class of bathing suit, except that which might cause the swimmer to remain afloat, can be used. Suits can be abolished entirely if swimmer chooses to use a covering only of grease."

The use of the grease was put in question shortly before the event, when Warren County Sanitary Inspector Harry Smith announced that the grease could jeopardize the quality of Lake George's water— which was, after all, used for drinking water. The swimmers, however, were able to convince him that the grease was a natural substance and would not harm the lake.



Photo from the collection of the Hague Historical Society

Of those registered for the race, two were local talents. One was Sam Schwartz of Glens Falls. The other was one of the few remaining members of the tribe of Six Nations, the Native Americans who inhabited the area long before the first white man ever laid eyes on Lake George. Her name (could this be pure coincidence?) was Anniwake Swimmer.

The 24-mile course for the marathon ran from the Trout House in Hague to the pergola of the Fort

William Henry Hotel. Dempsey fired the starting pistol shortly before 9 am, and the swimmers were on their way. Ernest Vierkoetter, the German baker who held the record for swimming the English Channel, took an early lead. He was the first to pass the checkpoint at Sabbath Day Point, a feat which would earn him the Bruce Carney trophy. (Carney was the proprietor of the Sabbath Day Point House).

As the race progressed, more and more swimmers were forced to drop out from cramps or exhaustion. George Knapp of Shelving Rock had donated the use of his yacht, Sayonara, as the hospital ship for the race. Dr. Edward C. Gow of Glens Falls was on board as the doctor in charge. Gow and his staff treated 41 contestants on the ship. Fortunately, all of the swimmers swiftly recovered from their maladies, though a newspaper report of the day noted that the greased-up swimmers did impart some slight damage to the fine furnishings and upholstery of Mr. Knapp's fine luxury yacht.

Not all of the problems encountered by the swimmers were of a medical nature. One swimmer, delivered to the hospital ship with cramps, recovered and was transferred to another boat to be taken ashore. However, his clothes and possessions were in the rowboat that had been accompanying him. The rowboat was nowhere in sight. The swimmer, believing that the

LOOKING BACK, CONT'D

oarsman had rowed back to Hague, directed the patrol boat to bring him there. After the boat dropped him on the beach and returned to the race, the unlucky swimmer learned that the rowboat had continued on to Lake George, leaving him high and dry in Hague.

Another account tells of an official who found two oarsmen rowing down the lake without their swimmer. When asked where the swimmer was, the oarsmen said they had lost him. After three-quarters of an hour of searching, the officials finally found the missing swimmer, about two miles behind the rowboat!

The water was cold, the waves were high and the course was long. Apparently the swimmers had not anticipated the difficulty of the marathon. In the end, only one contestant crossed the finish line. His name was Edward Keating, a 24-year-old swimming instructor from New York City, who completed the race just after 4:30 am on the morning of July 13th, after being in the water for almost 19 hours.

At an awards ceremony the next day, Keating received \$5,000 in prize money, as well as a silver cup and a lot in a Lake George development tract. He vowed to use part of the prize money to

give his mother a vacation on Lake George. Although at the time of the prize ceremony he had not yet decided which hotel he would select, he did say that he had a special fondness in his heart for Hague. Keating had trained there for a week before the race and had established many new friendships there.

Ernest Vierkoetter, the German baker who had held a strong lead throughout the first part of the marathon, dropped out in Bolton Landing because of indigestion. It seems that his stomach was having difficulty adjusting to that good ole American cuisine after his hearty German diet!

Although the marathon was a great success in garnering publicity for the region that summer, it turned out to be a one-time event, never to be staged again.

Perhaps it was the frustration on the part of the many competitors who were unable to complete the course or perhaps the American Legion could not rally enough support for a second running of the marathon.

The reasons are not clear. But for a few short weeks, in the summer of 1927, the Lake George Swimming Marathon was the talk of the town and the region. ▣

NEWS FROM THE LAKE GEORGE LAND CONSERVANCY (LGLC), CONT'D

Learn about Fall Bird Migration

Join a naturalist at Peggy's Point Preserve in Hague at **9 am on September 5th** to observe and record songbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors. This two-acre park provides an ample environment for observing species to later upload to eBird. Prior birding experience is not necessary and binoculars will be available for use. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#). ▣

NORTHERN LAKE GEORGE FOUNDATION

The Northern Lake George Foundation (NLGF) supports education, workforce development, local businesses, and community programs. Its mission is to foster economic growth, youth development, and community well-being.

The NLGF Board of Directors has appointed Mike Corbo as Executive

Director, effective September 1st. He succeeds Board Chair Kathleen Coffman, who served as volunteer Executive Director.

Corbo served nearly a decade on the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Greater Capital Region while working as a vice president with Enterprise Rent-A-Car and operating an auto appraisal company. After returning to Ticonderoga four years ago, he became a substitute teacher in the Ticonderoga Central School District.

"I am extremely excited and incredibly honored to join NLGF to work on increasing our impact on the community," Corbo said.

NLGF recently awarded more than \$27,000 in scholarships to seven Ticonderoga High School graduates: Isabelle Burroughs, Shaelene Dedrick, Madelyn Drinkwine, Eli Dromgool, Brady Leerkes, Derrick

Osier, and Gracie Wells. The students are pursuing programs ranging from line worker training and nursing to four-year degrees. Meg Singer and Mike Huffman launched the 2026 Scholarship Campaign with a \$10,000 contribution toward its \$50,000 goal.

The Foundation also donated \$5,000 to the Ticonderoga Backpack Program, which provides nutritious food to 290 eligible children from seven area school districts.

Another NLGF initiative, UpLift, provides local students, particularly those with financial need, with access to Garrison Gym, mentorship, community support, and opportunities to develop healthy habits. A \$35 monthly contribution sponsors one student.

To donate, volunteer, or join the mailing list, visit www.nlgfoundation.org or email info@nlgfoundation.org. ▣



GALILEO SHUTTLECRAFT COMES TO TI

The Star Trek Original Series Set Tour, in coordination with The Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC), will host a ribbon cutting celebration on **Friday, September 18th at 5:30 pm** at the Star Trek Original Series Set Tour, 112 Montcalm Street, Downtown Ticonderoga, celebrating the arrival and new home of the Galileo shuttlecraft.

The ribbon cutting celebration will take place as part of Trekonderoga Weekend, during *Trekonderoga Presents the Galileo*, a special celebration marking the unveiling of the restored Galileo shuttlecraft and its new home at the Star Trek Original Series Set Tour.

The Galileo is the iconic shuttlecraft featured in *Star Trek: The Original Series*.

After years of restoration, the historic shuttlecraft has found a permanent home in Ticonderoga, where it will be displayed in a newly constructed shuttle bay.

"We are incredibly excited to welcome the Galileo to its new home in Ticonderoga," said James Cawley, Owner and Operator of the Star Trek Original Series Set Tour. "This has been a tremendous project, and we're looking forward to sharing this incredible piece of Star Trek history with fans from around the world."

The community is invited to join the the Star Trek Original Series Set Tour and the TACC for this special celebration. Food trucks will also be available during the event.

Trekonderoga Weekend takes place **September 18th - 20th** in Ticonderoga, offering Star Trek fans a weekend of special events, guests, and experiences.

For more information, contact the TACC at 518-585-6619 or visit www.ticonderogany.com. For more information about the Star Trek Original Series Set Tour, click [HERE](#), visit www.startrektour.com, or call 518-503-5497.



SUPPORTING THE HAGUE CHRONICLE: You can make a tax-deductible donation to *The Hague Chronicle* any time **HERE**. Our all-volunteer staff thanks you for the encouragement and the support you provide! We couldn't do it without you!

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is a monthly news journal, which has been published by volunteers since January 1972. Current board members are Taylor, Quinn, Schaffer, (see below) and Paul Budd.

Please send all news items and Soundings to editor@thehaguechronicle.org by the 20th of the preceding month. Please send any comments to publisher@thehaguechronicle.org.

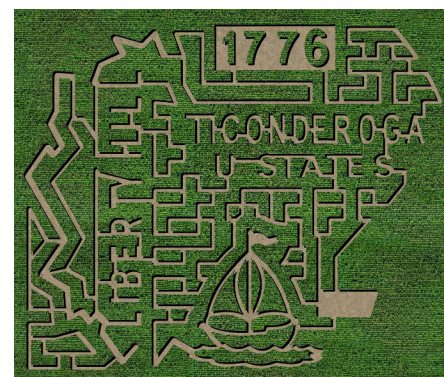
Publisher/Editor: Bobbi Bryant Taylor
Layout Editor: Chris Quinn
Secretary: Mike Kowalsky

Treasurer: Charlene Schaffer
Staff: Claire Best, Carolyn Hoeschele, and Pat McDonough

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE FORT

From now through **October 25, 2026, Tuesday through Sunday, 9:30 am to 5 pm (last ticket sold at 4:30 pm)**, Fort Ticonderoga's Heroic Corn Maze will be open, featuring an entirely new design built around six incredible stories of heroism and epic journeys from 1775 and 1776 — from covert scouting missions to Montreal to the legendary Noble Train of Artillery to Boston.

The six-acre maze is divided into two phases for visitors of all ages, with Maze Quest challenges woven throughout. Use your knowledge of Fort Ticonderoga's history to find your way — and discover a new story at every turn.



Fort Ticonderoga's landmark public history initiative REAL TIME REVOLUTION® recreates the specific events of the American Revolution on their exact dates, in the exact locations they unfolded — 250 years later to the day.

September 19th - 20th: "Lodging as the Nature of the Campaign Will Admit"

Visitors will watch soldiers of the Northern Continental Army build huts atop Liberty Hill using boards, posts, and beams in Fort Ticonderoga's newly constructed Liberty Hill Encampment.

General admission tickets are valid for two consecutive days. Advance tickets are encouraged. Full schedule, tickets, and reservations available at www.fortticonderoga.org.

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

PO Box 748
Hague, New York 12836-0748



ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

CALENDAR

September 2026

SEPTEMBER

1		September issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i> published	12		<i>Loose Monkeys</i> at Bicentennial Park
3	6 pm	Planning Board Mtg.	15	6 pm	TCSD BoE MTG.
4 – 6	5:30 – 8:30 pm	Shannon Tingley at Martucci's		6 pm	LGA Dinner at LG Club
5	9 am	Bird pgm. at Peggy's Point	17	6 pm	Zoning Board of Appeals Mtg.
	9 am – noon	Farmers Market/Community Non-Profit Day/ <i>Uncle Joe</i> at Bicentennial Park	18 – 20		Trekonderoga Weekend
	10 am – 4 pm	Event at <i>The Queen's Treasures</i>	18	5:30 pm	Star Trek Ribbon Cutting
	8 pm	<i>The Psychedelics</i> at Silver Bay	19 – 20		Ft. Ti program
6	6 – 8 pm	<i>Loose Monkeys</i> at Brookwood	19		<i>The Dons</i> at Bicentennial Park
7		LABOR DAY – town offices closed	20	6 pm	Deadline for the October issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i>
8	6 pm	Town Board Mtg.	26	9 – noon	<i>FallFest</i> at Farmers Market
11 – 13		Silver Bay Mountain Music Festival/ <i>Amy Gallatin</i> and <i>Stillwaters</i>		12 – 3 and 5 – 8	Music at Bicentennial Park

TRANSFER STATION HOURS: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm