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SCHOOL TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE *by Linda Fusco*

Since the March 2023 Hague property tax assessment, there has been a lot of discussion in Hague about the school tax apportionment for the town's constituents. In the 44 years since Hague's school was annexed in 1979 into the Ticonderoga Central School District (see the July 2023 issue of *The Hague Chronicle*), Hague property owners have experienced an increase in their apportionment.

At the May 9th Hague Town Board Meeting, the board announced the establishment of a citizen Hague School Tax Advisory Committee (STAC) to investigate and advise the board on ways to improve Hague's school tax situation.

The board selected the following committee members from over 20 applicants: Jack Bast, chair, Kathe Allen, Rolly Allen, Beth Barton-Navitsky, Peter Carney, Susan DeLarm-Sandman, Linda

Fusco, Amanda Peterson, Sandy Smith, and Sally Thurston.

The first committee meeting was held on July 28th. Its first task was to draft a town resolution requesting that the Ticonderoga Central School District (CSD) employ the five-year averaging methodology allowed by NYS Property Tax Law when determining the allocation of the school taxes between the towns of Hague and Ticonderoga for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. As reported in the June 2023 issue of *The Hague Chronicle*, this would have the effect of reducing Hague's tax burden.

On August 8th, the Town of Hague adopted RESOLUTION #75 of 2023.

On August 9th, the Ticonderoga School Board of Education held a special meeting specifically to address Hague's

Resolution. The meeting was attended by over 50 Hague property owners, the Hague Town Board, and members of the STAC. After a lengthy discussion between the Ticonderoga School Board and the meeting attendees, the Ticonderoga School Board voted AGAINST going forward with the suggested assessment averaging methodologies this year.

At the August 22nd regular meeting of the Ticonderoga School Board, the Hague 2023-2024 school tax rate was set at \$7.45331575 per thousand and the Ticonderoga rate was set at \$8.88817218.

The STAC met on August 29th to plan its next steps.

Its objectives going forward will be to focus on the quality of the education of our Hague school children as well as ways to address the school tax situation.



Jack Bast

FROM THE PUBLISHER...

We at *The Hague Chronicle* appreciate the feedback we received regarding the article by Linda Fusco, which we published last month regarding the history of the Hague school annexation. As was stated in the article, Fusco based her information solely on the records found in the archives of the Property Owners of Silver Bay.

In the intervening month, we have received information reflecting contradictory recollections of what happened at the time of the annexation. It appears that in the

various records of the events of that time, different versions of the "facts" exist.

The Hague Chronicle always strives to publish the truth. Toward that end, we are actively delving into other sources that exist regarding the annexation and plan to share what we discover with our readers.

It is obvious that the decision to annex Hague students to Ticonderoga was, and remains, an emotional, challenging, and controversial decision.

A separate issue that resulted from the annexation is the hotly-debated

school tax structure for Hague residents. The Hague Town Board has appointed a committee, called the School Tax Advisory Committee (STAC), to look into the 44-year history of our school tax structure, its implications for current school taxes for property owners in Hague, and exactly what actions can be taken to improve the situation. This committee is determined not only to gather accurate data, but, more importantly, to DO something about the situation. (See STAC article above) and Town Board, NEW BUSINESS, #5 on page 5) ■

COTTEN SPEAKS ABOUT HIS LAKE GEORGE SWIM

At 7 pm on Monday, August 14, 2023, Scott Cotten set out to swim the length of Lake George (32.19 miles).

Cotten began at the Lake George Village Public Dock; his target was Diane’s Rock in Ticonderoga.

He had been in the water for about eight hours when the wind shifted to the north and it began raining. Due to the worsening weather conditions, including whitecaps, and a developing shoulder injury, Cotten made the tough decision to end his swim at 11:30 am on Tuesday morning after swimming over 21 miles.

Cotten held a post-event talk on Thursday, August 17th to discuss the training that went into his swim, the logistics it took to make the swim happen, and the decision behind his stopping.

He raised over \$9,000, which will support Silver Camp and waterfront safety at Silver Bay YMCA.

He stated, “I gave it everything I had.” When asked if he would do it again, Cotten answered, “Yes” without hesitation.

A recording of Cotten's post-event talk can be found on Silver Bay YMCA's Facebook page and its YouTube channel. ▣



BOAT SHOW IN HAGUE ATTRACTS BOATS AND SPECTATORS

by Ginger Henry Kuenzel

Antique and classic boats were on display at the Hague Town Park on the morning of Friday, August 25, 2023, sponsored by the Antique and Classic Boat Society (ACBS), Adirondack Chapter. Several beautifully-restored inboards were in the water at the launch slip, including two Fay & Bowens, two Hackers, a Garwood, two Lymans, and a steamship. In the parking lot, visitors could marvel at a restored Penn Yan runabout and the 26’ Curtiss Wilgold III, an historically accurate reconstruction by Mark Mason, who



discovered that the original Curtiss Wilgold III shared her Hacker lines with El Lagarto of Gold Cup fame.

Nearby were two iconic Hague race boats. *Gingerly*, a D class stock utility with a Mark 55 Mercury motor, raced in the Northern Lake George marathons in the 1950s and 60s, driven by Jack Henry and later his



sons, John and Ed. Now owned by Jack’s great nephew John Beekley, *Gingerly* was restored by Mountain Motors in Hague this past winter; her motor was restored by ace mechanic and former racer John Schubert of Illinois.

With her return to Hague, *Gingerly* resides in her rightful berth in the Henry boathouse.

Next to *Gingerly* was the nearly 100-year-old *Miss Mystery*, owned by Alan Larter of Sabbath Day Point.

(Continued on p. 3)

BLUEGRASS IN HEAVEN MUSIC FESTIVAL

The inaugural Bluegrass in Heaven Music Festival is coming to Silver Bay YMCA Friday, September 15 – Sunday, September 17, 2023.

On Friday, Blue Highway will perform from 7:30 – 9 pm followed by a performance by Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper from 9:30 – 11 pm.

Rock Hearts, a bluegrass band from Southern New England, is scheduled to kick things off Saturday morning at 10:30 am, with a performance in Morse Hall followed by performances by Jam Crackers, Drank the Gold, Newberry & Verch, the Bob and Sarah Amos Band, Tony Trischka and Michael Daves, and Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper.

In addition to performances by regional and national talent, there will be instrument and dance workshops, a Silver Bay History Walk, food trucks, jam sessions, a Singer - Songwriter Showcase, and more happening throughout the day. A full list of events can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

Sunday will feature a Gospel Hour in the auditorium followed by ambient music



throughout the campus as they say a “see you later” to their bluegrass friends.

Ticket prices are: Youth (ages 6-17) \$10 / Festival Pass \$40 / All-Inclusive Festival Pass \$80

Bluegrass in Heaven is not only providing bluegrass artists with a new venue in which to play, but it will also have a positive impact on the local economy.

“The Silver Bay Bluegrass in Heaven Festival...offers a variety of positive economic and cultural benefits, bringing new visitors to the area and entertaining locals who may have never been on the Silver Bay campus before. Personally, I can't wait to attend as the lineup of entertainment rivals

some of the most established festivals in the country,” said Gina Mintzer, the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, Lake George Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The Lake George Visitors Bureau, Town of Hague, and the Ti Festival Guild all provided grants and co-promotion for the event. Adirondack Bluegrass League and Caffè Lena are also promoting the event. ▣

ANTIQUUE BOATS, CONTINUED



This boat, originally owned by the Fulham brothers, competed in the early Lake George Regatta Association (LGRA) regattas, held annually off the shores of the Island Harbor House from 1901-1930. A 1928 LGRA regatta program lists *Miss Mystery* as an entrant, just above a boat named *Zigzag*, driven by Jack Henry, who was just 13 years old that summer.

Visit the [Gingerly website HERE](#) for more information about *Gingerly*, as well as vintage footage of her frolicking in Hague Bay with *Havin' Fitz* and *Rock 'n Rolly Baby*, driven by Charlie Fitzgerald and Dick Bolton, respectively.

ACBS, founded on the shores of Lake George in 1975, has grown into the largest society in the world dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of classic boats. Visit the [ACBS website HERE](#) or more information about the organization. ▣

HAGUE FISH AND GAME OPEN HOUSE

by *Bobbie Jean Fish*

What a great day Saturday, August 26, 2023 was for the Hague Fish & Game Club! We have not had an open house in some time and this one will go down in the record books. We opened our day at 9 am with a round of skeet; Alvin Frasier was the high scorer. Then, Steve Ramant dedicated the skeet range to Korinna Ryder; it will forever be known as “Ryder's Range.”

Todd Fish, board member Colby Hurlburt, Grayson Hurlburt, and William Connors performed the ribbon cutting to officially open the new playground. The kids had a great day of four-wheeler rides, fishing, and lots of playground time.

Mike Flack donated an axe for a raffle and the winner was Jason



Kelly, who was beyond excited. Attendees enjoyed a free lunch and the events continued.

Jason Brown and Bobbie Jean Fish won the men's and women's axe toss. For the frying pan toss, each person tossed two eight-pound frying pans. Winners were: kid's: Madison Smith; women's: Mallory McDonald; and men's: President Donnie Smith, Jr.



To close out the day, we enjoyed a delicious chicken dinner cooked by Tim Fiallo. We hope to see you all again soon! ▣

AUGUST ISSUE CORRECTION:

On page six, column one under Town Board of the August 2023 issue of *The Hague Chronicle*, we stated: “The Ordinance Regulating Short-Term Rentals in the Town of Hague, passed unanimously.” **That was incorrect; the ordinance itself did NOT pass.**

The board DID unanimously agree to hold a public hearing on the draft of the Short-Term Rentals Ordinance that the Short-Term Rental Committee presented to them at the Special Hague Town Board meeting on June 21, 2023. The public hearing was scheduled for July 27th. At that meeting, the Hague Town Board took no further action on the ordinance other than to say they would discuss it as a board. The Short-Term Rental Ordinance was not on the agenda at the August 8th town board meeting. ❑

TOWN BOARD - 8/8/2023

Present were: Supervisor Edna Frasier, Board Members Steve Ramant, Joshua Patchett, Jack Bast, and Maureen Cherubini. Also present were: Deputy Highway Superintendent Matt Coffin, Zoom Coordinator Ginger Kuenzel, Chris Richards, Linda Mury, Peter Carney, Peggy Carney, Luke Winters, Caroline Mossip, Donna Trudeau, John Zamrok, Sandra Rust, Donnie Smith, Jr., and Meg Haskell. Approximately six people attended via ZOOM.

WELCOME GUESTS/PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Sandra Rust stated that to date, there have been 100 views of the video of the Short-Term Rental Public Hearing that was posted on the town website. She asked that the board hire a consultant or spend money to improve the quality of ZOOM usage in the meetings because, with so many vital issues before the town, it is important that residents can join, see, and hear via ZOOM.

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Highway: The department continues to deal with water issues caused by the heavy rain.

Museum/Historian: The Hague Historical Society is sponsoring a local author’s book signing at Silver Bay this Sunday, August 13th, from 4 to 7 pm. There will be about 20 local authors this year.

Personnel: Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) Matthew McGee resigned effective August 1st. This full-time position with benefits has been posted.

Planning/Zoning/Stormwater: Upcoming planning board and zoning board of appeals meetings have been canceled.

Town Park/Beautification: The fireworks are now scheduled for August 16th. The food trucks and Music in the Park are going great. The Lake George Open Swim will be on the 19th of August; many local citizens are volunteering. Lance Clark from Ti’Coustics was thanked for a great show.

Sewer District #1 & #2: The Sewer EDU Appeals Committee is processing two submitted EDU appeals. They are also working to resolve the problems of the well leaking at the main wastewater treatment plant and the incorrect parts that were sent to repair the pump.

Environmental Concerns: Gore Electric has been to the transfer station to repair a switch. Knotweed around town has been addressed and a follow-up treatment is planned for the end of August. Residents who have a knotweed problem and wish to be

included in the treatment process should complete a form at the community center.

The Lake George Association (LGA) and Warren County Soil and Water are considering dredging the sediment ponds from Peggy’s Point to the Hague Community Center.

Matt Coffin is working with the LGA and Warren County Soil and Water to obtain grant money to help with the necessary repairs to the big boat dock. The highway crew has made emergency repairs along the sidewalks from the Hague Motel south to the big boat dock to help prevent additional water damage. Coffin thinks that damage occurred while paving was done along Rt. 9N. He has been talking with the State of NY regarding needed repairs.

Town Clerk Kim Coffin and Amanda Peterson are in the process of adding committee reports and minutes to the Town of Hague website. They are also making it easier to find minutes and agendas for the Hague Town Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals on the website.

Cathy Clark offered to fill in as Acting ZEO until a new fulltime ZEO can be hired. The board gratefully voted unanimously to hire Clark for 24 hours a week at \$35.00 an hour.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

A motion passed unanimously to allow Amanda Peterson and David Martucci to attend an Assessor’s Conference October 5-6, 2023 as well as to take an online course in August.

OLD BUSINESS

Cherubini has been in contact with National Grid regarding the Town of Hague installing four electric vehicle charging stations. She must get two bids for the equipment. Apex of Glens Falls returned a bid of \$6,980.49, however the bid was incorrect, so a corrected bid will be submitted. Cherubini is contacting other companies for the second required bid. Once received, Cherubini will take the two bids to the town board so it can vote on which company to use to provide the equipment. Cherubini will then notify National Grid of which company has been selected.

The charging stations will be at the community center, where the needed power is already in place. Patchett suggested putting some at the beach as well and asked that it be confirmed whether the charging stations are “quick charge” or not.

Signage will be placed to notify people where the charging stations are located once it has been decided.

(Continued on p. 5)

TOWN BOARD, CONTINUED

NEW BUSINESS

1. Matt Coffin stated that there are problems at the Yaw Road project such as limited space and the way the excessive amount of water is flowing. After some discussion, the board voted unanimously to approve an additional \$11,500 - \$12,000 for SRA engineers to complete the project.
2. The board voted unanimously to authorize Supervisor Frasier and/or Chair of the School Tax Advisory Committee (STAC) Jack Bast to request that District Superintendent of the Ticonderoga CSD Scott Nephew and President of the School Board of Education Mark Russell resolve to employ the five-year averaging methodology specified in the second and third sentences of Section 1314(d)(i) of the NY State Real Property Tax when determining the allocation of school taxes between the Towns of Hague and Ticonderoga for the 2023 - 2024 fiscal year, or, if not possible, the three-year averaging methodology specified in the same sentences.
3. There was a lengthy conversation between town board members and Peter and Peggy Carney regarding the three appeals they submitted on June 15th to lower their current EDU scheduled billing. The Sewer EDU Appeals Committee considered all three appeals and recommended that they be denied. A motion to deny the Carney's requests was passed with Patchett abstaining.

4. The board unanimously approved the 2023 Warren County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Click [HERE](#) to see the plan.
5. Zamrok asked several questions regarding the intentions and current progress of the School Tax Advisory Committee (STAC). Bast responded that the minutes of its meeting will be available to the public when STAC meets again and approves them. It has a second meeting scheduled for August 29th.

The STAC's mission statement is, "To address this tax situation and to do it in such a manner that it results in the best education for our children in full cooperation with the town of Ticonderoga."

STAC chose specifically not to, at this time, approach our NYS assemblyman or NYS senator because it wants to focus entirely on the immediate assessment averaging potential and it didn't want to further burden Nephew or Russell at this point with its ultimate intention.

STAC is developing both short-term and long-term plans and is trying to determine what happened with the at least two previous attempts to change this situation. STAC's meetings are open to the public and the results of its deliberations will be provided to the public.

6. The Hague Volunteer Fire Department is having its Steak Bake on August 12th starting at 3 pm until it is sold out of steak. The dinner includes a steak, a potato, local corn from Drinkwine's, a roll, and a dessert for \$16. In addition, there will be clams, hot dogs, and hamburgers. Raffles will also be held. ▣

HOW ARTIFICIAL IS OUR INTELLIGENCE?

by Ginger Henry Kuenzel

We probably all know people who delight in trying to make us believe that they are smarter than the rest of us. Many politicians on both sides of the aisle can be placed in this category. The more closely we examine their rantings, however, the clearer it becomes – SURPRISE! – that they really aren't all that smart. Is that what they call artificial intelligence (AI)?

One facet of AI is facial recognition. This means that my computer can recognize my face and allow me to log in without a password – theoretically. I had great hopes for this technology. I figured it would mean I'd no longer have to remember all those complex passwords, which I then have to change just as I've gotten comfortable with them. But the operative word here is theoretically. In reality, eight times out of ten, my computer pops up a message saying it cannot recognize me. It tells me it needs my password after all. So much for the computer's intelligence. Even the woman at the checkout counter at Walmart

remembers who I am and often even greets me by name. I guess that means she's smarter than my computer.

Recently, I read about some possible future uses of facial recognition software. It seems that one company has trained its AI systems to recognize whether an individual is happy or sad, tired or energetic, angry or laid back. There might eventually even be a way for machines to see whether a person tends toward dishonesty. I can see why retail stores would love to be able to scan shoppers' faces to see who might be thinking about shoplifting that day. But, when it comes to those other emotions, do I really want my grocery store personnel to know that I'm angry because I would rather be sitting on the beach than standing in a check-out line? On the other hand, I guess I wouldn't mind them knowing that I'm angry because all the lettuce in the produce section is wilted or because they don't carry any cheeses that are more interesting than Cabot cheddar.

Some companies developing AI applications are now beginning to take a moral stand on what business

opportunities they will or will not pursue. Probably nobody would have anything against a car company developing an app that sets off an alarm when a driver's eyes indicate drowsiness. However, this same facial recognition technology could conceivably be used to scan faces in a crowd and identify people who are angry or sad – and thus, potential dissidents. We all know about racial profiling. Could we be dealing with emotional profiling of crowds in the future? But, then again, since there are no crowds in Hague – and also no police – I guess we don't have much to worry about here.

It's unsettling enough that Facebook recognizes my face when someone posts a photo of me. In the future, will an emoticon appear under my photo that divulges my emotional state of mind? If AI can recognize anger, sadness, energy level, and dishonesty, what other emotions could it identify and share with others?

Of course, as long as I'm in Hague, I'm not too worried about AI identifying my emotional state as anything other than tranquil and happy. ▣

SOUNDINGS

DIED: Nancy (Doris) Getta, 91, of Hague and Lewes, DE on July 3, 2023.

Nancy was born in Englishtown, NJ. She married Anthony Kowalsky in 1950 and moved to Bloomsburg, PA.

When Tony passed away in 1965, she moved with her four young children to

Wickatunk, NJ and married August (Gus) Getta.

In 1972, they moved to Hague and refurbished "the old Waters' place" on Graphite Mountain Road, where she lived until 2004.



Nancy was the rural mail carrier in Hague from 1977 until 1995.

More than once, she was scolded for leaving her car to hand-deliver letters to folks who had trouble getting to their mailbox. Children in town would run to get the mail and some of the candy she always had on hand. Some might remember that she was quite short and seeing her driving from the middle of the front seat was "interesting."

She was an avid sports fan and not a quiet bystander when attending the wrestling, baseball, softball, and soccer matches of her children. She played tennis and golf with her many friends from Hague. She was the first to admit she wasn't very good, but she had fun.

When not playing, she liked watching sports on television or would walk up the road to play Rummikub with her friend, Julia.

Her passions included gardening and cooking. Many of her plants are still thriving at the house in Hague, now owned by her son, Mike, and his wife, Peggy.

Her potato salad, stuffed cabbage, and pierogi made from scratch are legendary.

She was always smiling, always laughing, and always friendly. In high school, she was known as "Nancy With the Laughing Face" from the Frank Sinatra song, which was popular at the time.

Nancy was preceded in death by her husbands and her daughter, Karen Kowalsky Ravis.

She is survived by three children: Stanley Kowalsky (Lalonia), Michael Kowalsky (Peggy), and Nancy Perkins (John). She has nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. ▣

GFS PARTNERED WITH WE ARE INSTRUMENTAL AT SILVER BAY

Silver Bay YMCA welcomed the Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra (GFS) to the stage in their auditorium Saturday, July 29, 2023 as part of its Summer Concert Series.

Before the concert began, GFS partnered with *We Are Instrumental (WAI)*, a non-profit that works to improve accessibility to musical education for children in northern NY, to provide families and children with a hands-on experience with real instruments. This experience is referred to as an "Instrument Petting Zoo."

WAI's President Michael Iturrino and WAI's Founder/Board Treasurer Evan Mack brought three students from Ticonderoga Junior-Senior High School, who allowed children to experiment with their musical instruments. Then, those three students from Ticonderoga had the privilege of one-on-one lessons

with the world-class professionals from the GFS.

Chet Lastowski, Silver Bay YMCA assistant vice president of campus and conference programs said, "It was fantastic to be able to have students from the Ticonderoga School District music program on site to show guests, young and old, how to play an array of instruments."

"We Are Instrumental does an amazing job of supporting the music program and its students by providing instruments for students to use when they otherwise may not be able to have access to them," Lastowski concluded. ▣



TOP: Alyssa Verheyen teaching Deirdre Kleemann percussion. Photo courtesy of Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra

BOTTOM: Students from Ticonderoga Junior-Senior High School: (L to R) Deirdre Kleeman, Emma Lastowski, Isaac DeLong, Henry Mack, and Audrey Cook. Photo courtesy of We Are Instrumental

LGLC LAND AND WATER CELEBRATION

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) hosted more than 200 guests for its 24th annual Land and Water Conservation Celebration on Friday, July 28, 2023 at the Inn at Erlowest in the Town of Lake George.

Guests participated in a silent auction while enjoying refreshments on the patio, where they were treated to a clear view of the lake, shoreline, and mountains that they were there to help protect.

Past LGLC President and Director Emeritus John Macionis of Hague and Board Member Elizabeth Guest served as co-auctioneers for the Fund-A-Need and live auction. Thanks to their inspiring introductions and many generous donors, the evening's Fund-A-Need goals were exceeded, with \$110,000 raised to complete the purchase of a conservation easement from Wiawaka and \$21,250 for stewardship efforts focused on invasive species management.

The Wiawaka Uplands' 47 acres includes 1,500 feet of stream corridor, five acres of wetlands, and steep slopes ascending French Mountain. This land also provides important natural habitat and scenic beauty. Construction of a parking area and



Local residents at the LGLC Celebration. LEFT: (L to R) William and Janet Craft, Dean Cook and sister Bonnie Cook, and Enid Engler, all of Ticonderoga; RIGHT: (L to R) Nancy and daughter Lucinda Tetz of Sabbath Day Point

trails for public recreation is expected to begin in 2024. The LGLC's Wiawaka Uplands Conservation Project is a collaborative effort with Wiawaka Center for Women. This conservation project touches upon all aspects of the LGLC's mission — water quality and the watershed's natural, scenic, recreational, and historic resources.

Stewardship is an ongoing need and critical part of the LGLC's overall programs to ensure permanent protection of its lands. Funds raised will support its invasive species management program, particularly focused on the creation and implementation of a management plan for the recently-discovered infestation of the invasive hemlock

woolly adelgid (HWA) at the LGLC's Clark Hollow Bay property in Putnam.

"I am sincerely grateful to all who made this such a spectacular evening," expressed LGLC Executive Director Mike Horn. "The success of this event is a tribute to the dedication and devotion of the LGLC's supporters to our mission, allowing us to permanently protect the land that protects the lake."

Horn continued, "Between the Honorary Committee - our largest ever - and the Fund-A-Need's exceptional success, those who support the LGLC have made a real and lasting impact to protect the water quality of the lake we all love." ▣

LGA SUMMER GALA

The 2023 Lake George Association (LGA) Summer Gala did not disappoint. From the welcome by Board Chairman Pete Menzies and the address by LGA President Eric Siy to the rocking music of the Silver Arrow Band, good vibes were infectious all night long.

The annual event was held on July 14, 2023 at the beautiful Sagamore Resort, where General Manager Tom Guay and his crew outdid themselves — the food, service, and the presentation were second to none.

The program was brief and compelling, highlighted by Judy Killeen, recipient of the first Killeen Lake Protector Award, in honor of her



Hague residents at the LGA Gala. LEFT: (L to R) Amy Summa and LGA Board Member Ginger Henry Kuenzel; RIGHT: Karen and John Beekley

late husband Jeff's passionate and tireless service to the preservation of Lake George.

The evening proved to be the most successful LGA gala to date in terms of

attendance and revenue. The LGA appreciates the incredible support of its enthusiastic Lake Protectors and members. ▣

THE STORM WINDOWS TO PLAY AT SILVER BAY

The Storm Windows, a local band, will play Saturday night, September 2, 2023, at the Silver Bay auditorium at 8 pm. The show is free and open to the public. The Storm Windows are brothers Rob (guitar, piano, vocal) and Don (upright bass, vocals) Mathews, both Silver Bay residents.

The Storm Windows plays original songs and reworked cover songs – some well-known, some less so.

Critics have labeled their music “New Americana” – a blend of folk, rock, and even jazz-laced sonics that the duo describe as a “survey of the American landscape, with a few love (or love-gone-wrong) songs thrown in.”

Their music is available on Spotify and Apple Music. Its music videos are available on YouTube and are posted



Left to Right: Rob and Don Mathews

on the band’s website thestormwindows.com.

For Rob and Don nothing beats the joy of connecting with a live audience. They say, “Our music is like a travelogue: part road trip, part nostalgia for something lost, part optimism for something coming. Not in any order. We hope people tune into that.” ▣

ERIC SIY TO STEP DOWN AS PRESIDENT OF LGA

Eric J. Siy has announced that he will be leaving his post as president of the Lake George Association (LGA) at the end of the year.

Siy successfully led the LGA through its merger with The FUND for Lake George in July 2021. Prior to his current position, Siy served as executive director of The FUND since 2012.

In making the announcement Siy said, “I could not be more pleased or proud of all we have accomplished and all we are now doing to make Lake George a working model for freshwater protection. Driving our breakthrough progress is a powerful combination of partnership, innovation, education, and direct investment, guided by science. It’s a tested formula that works,” Siy said.

The LGA is conducting a nationwide search for a new president. ▣

SYLVAMO MAKES DONATION TO CHILDCARE CENTER

At the Sylvamo Ticonderoga Mill Advisory Council Meeting on Monday, July 31, 2023, Sylvamo’s Ticonderoga mill presented the Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance (Ti-Alliance) a donation of \$50,000 to help develop a new 50-child childcare center in Ticonderoga. The facility will be located in the former St. Mary’s School building and is expected to open in January 2024.

In making the presentation, Mill Manager Tim Stocker noted, “Childcare availability is a challenging issue for our employees and is a significant factor in recruiting and retaining people. This is a critical need for the region and we are excited to play a role in making childcare a reality for the Ticonderoga area.”

Sylvamo Global Program Manager for Community Engagement Neki Cantron added, “This gift is indicative of Sylvamo’s commitment to the sustainability of the communities where our employees live and work.”

Ti-Alliance has coordinated the Ticonderoga Community Childcare Committee over the past year to develop a plan for a childcare center to serve our community. Phil Graf, a business unit manager at the mill, who has childcare-age children, represents Sylvamo on the committee that has explored multiple sites and developed the business plan.

Mill Communication Manager Donna Wadsworth, who facilitated the partnership between Ti-Alliance and Sylvamo, noted, “This has truly been a team effort and we are happy to be part of this important step forward in our community. We encourage the business community and others to join us and become involved.”

Ticonderoga Supervisor Mark Wright said, “Childcare is a fundamental



Photo: From L to R: Tim Stocker, Donna Wotton, Donna Wadsworth, Phil Graf, and Neki Cantron

economic pillar that has hindered our community for a long time. With the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and investments going on throughout the town now and in the coming years, we must solve our childcare challenge so that young families can live and work here. We applaud Sylvamo for taking a leadership position in bringing childcare to our community and making this flagship donation and we encourage other employers to support childcare for our area.”

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SYLVAMO DONATION, CONTINUED

Next steps for the committee will include securing an operator for the center, staffing, and the scheduling of the construction on the building this fall.

Ti-Alliance will be reaching out to those interested in working in the center to help facilitate certifications and employment applications.

Pre-registration for families will begin in mid-October.

Approximately \$1 million is needed for construction and first-year operating expenses, so Ti-Alliance is continuing to raise funds for the project.

In accepting the donation from Sylvamo, Ti-Alliance Executive Director Donna Wotton thanked Stocker and the entire Sylvamo organization for its support. "Sylvamo has been with us since day one, and this donation to the Childcare Project will help us leverage support from other employers as well as private funders. We are confident that we will get to the finish line and be able to offer stable and skilled childcare to the families of Ticonderoga and the surrounding area in the very near future. We are extremely grateful to Sylvamo for helping to make it happen." ❏

LGLC SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Summer might be quickly slipping away, but the Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) still has events scheduled in September.

On September 7, 2023, from 10 am – 1 pm, volunteers will remove invasive species to keep the ecosystem healthy and resilient at Cook Mountain.

On September 9th, from 9 - 11 am, there will be a hike at Amy's Park, during which participants will learn about plants from a naturalist.

September 30th is Amy's Adventure Race for the Lake in Amy's Park, starting at 7:30 am. Also on September 30th from 9:30 – 11 am at Pinnacle Preserve, there will be a walk through the forest where participants will observe how the local trees are changing before winter and learn some Adirondack tree identification.

For more information and to register, click [HERE](#). ❏



FALLFEST

On Saturday, September 30, 2023, the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC), along with the Ticonderoga Montcalm Street Partnership (TMSP) will hold FallFest in Bicentennial Park.

From 12 – 8 pm will be children's activities, live music, a VR Room Virtual Reality Trailer, and a bounce house.

From 12 - 3 pm only will be the Farmers Market, "Touch a Truck," carnival games, face painting, food trucks, vendors, and an alumni Fife and Drum Corps performance.

From 5 – 8 pm only will be the Ticonderoga Area Restaurant Food Fest, the Fort Ticonderoga Fife and Drum Corps Performance, and a Beer Garden (*must present proof of age 21 or older*).

8 pm – Fireworks Display

For more information, go to www.timainstreet.org or www.ticonderogany.com. ❏

MASON STAR CHICKEN AND BISCUITS DINNER

A public chicken and biscuits 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 served, Monday, September 25, 2023, from 4:30 pm until all is gone at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street, Ticonderoga (across from the Stone House).

Take-outs will be available. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children 12 years old and under, and will be sold at the door. Parking will be available along Montcalm Street and at the Hancock House parking lot.

Note that this dinner is scheduled for a Monday when other restaurants in Ticonderoga are closed, so it is designed to be a dining alternative for residents. ❏

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.

Please send all news items and soundings by the deadline on the 20th of the month at 6 pm to editor@thehaguechronicle.org . Please send questions to publisher@thehaguechronicle.org .

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THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

CALENDAR

September 2023

SEPTEMBER

2	8 pm	Storm Windows Band- Silver Bay YMCA Auditorium
4		LABOR DAY
7	7 pm	Planning Board Meeting
12	10 am	Hague Historical Society Board Meeting
	6 pm	Town Board Meeting

15 - 17		Blue Grass in Heaven Music Festival at Silver Bay
25	4:30 pm	Mason Star Dinner - Ticonderoga Masonic Temple
28	7 pm	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
30	12 - 8 pm	FALLFEST in Ticonderoga

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