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A LETTER FROM JOSHUA PATCHETT, SUPERVISOR, TOWN OF HAGUE

Ticonderoga Central School District – Board of Education
August 20, 2024 Meeting

Mr. Russell (Editor's note: Russell is the president of the BOE), in 1979 our Hague school district was merged with Ticonderoga's. The changes in our relative situations over the past 45 years and, in particular, our interactions this past year with the Board of Education, have made it clear that it is now warranted to revisit that arrangement.



Throughout the past year Hague has sought your cooperation and collaboration to review the particulars of that arrangement ... and the effects that that arrangement has had on your constituents in both communities. Hague has twice supported an initiative to study the benefits of Multi-Year Assessment Averaging (MYAA), and a retrospective analysis shows both communities would benefit equally from the use of MYAA. New York State Real Property Tax Law, in fact, provides the Board of Education with the authority to implement MYAA. Yet you have repeatedly rejected our request to cooperate in a detailed study of the factors that drive volatility in assessments and the benefits of MYAA in dampening that volatility.

Until the COVID years, you routinely held Board of Education meetings in Hague and provided an information session on the proposed school budget. This year, our request for a Budget Review in Hague was met with your refusal to attend any meeting "outside the High School building."

More recently, we have taken note of the boom in energy projects in Ticonderoga. Over the next three years, projects are scheduled to be completed with an estimated value in the range of \$150 million dollars. You have entered Payment In Lieu of Taxes (i.e., PILOT) Agreements with each of these projects that avoid full payment of school taxes for the life of the project. In spite of the impact on school taxes, Hague was not a party to any of these PILOT agreements. And, your constituents in Hague do not benefit in these PILOT Agreements to the extent that your constituents in Ticonderoga do. PILOT payments reduce the Essex County, the Ticonderoga Town, and the school taxes for Ticonderoga taxpayers. Ticonderoga also, of course, experiences significant direct economic benefits from these energy projects.

Including Hague, since we are the major contributor to school taxes, in the PILOT negotiations would have provided Hague taxpayers at least some consideration and possibly even benefit. Subsequently, at least including the full value of these projects in the school tax levy apportionment would be a balanced, fair and equitable method. New York State Real Property Tax Law, in fact, provides the Board of Education with the very authority to include the full value of these projects in the school tax levy apportionment calculation.

Furthermore, the Board of Education has, in fact, set this exact precedence for such methodology by including Sylvamo Waste Treatment property in current calculations.

(Continued on p. 2)

LAKE GEORGE OPEN WATER SWIM (LGOWS)

The 14th Annual Lake George 2.5k, 5k, 10k Swims took place on Saturday, August 17, 2024, from 7:45 am - 12 pm. The air temperature was 72 degrees and the water temperature was 75 degrees.

A total of 500 swimmers registered: 220 in the 2.5k, 190 in the 5k, and 90 in the 10k. Twenty-six states were represented and there were swimmers from Canada. It speaks well for the event that 84% were repeat swimmers (420 total) and 16% were new swimmers (80 total).



Overall winners were:

2.5k Male

Michael Schultz, Binghamton, NY, 35:39
Casey Everett, Saratoga Springs, NY, 37:54
Nick Sinnenberg, Burnt Hills, NY, 38:15

2.5k Female

Tatiana Kundla, Binghamton, NY, 38:23
Sarah Blaum, Ballston Spa, NY, 39:24
Erin Kane, Albany, NY, 42:03

2.5k Non-Binary

Emily Fogle, Brooklyn, NY, 37:43

(Continued on p. 3)

SENIORS CLUB NEWS

by Pat Hintze

The club has been having a great year.



We went to the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation and learned some interesting facts about loons. Then, we went to the John Brown Farm State Historic Site and had an interesting history lesson. We also learned some history at the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage National Historic Landmark. Our tour lecturer, Steve, did an excellent presentation.

We also did a Blue Mountain Lake Livery tour of three lakes that connect to each other. We saw mother loons with their babies and learned much more about the area.

On September 5th, we will be doing the Revolution Rail Company's Railbiking on the tracks in Hadley over the Hudson River Gorge. After the six miles of biking, we'll have our Snowbird Dinner. If you're not doing the ride, you can still come meet us for dinner.

On September 12th, we'll be starting up game night at a location TBA.

September 24th at 1:30 pm is our regular meeting. At that time, we'll need a committee for the nominations for officers. ▣

JOSHUA PATCHETT LETTER, CONTINUED

The Town of Hague transparently enacted a resolution of support for the inclusion by the Board of Education of the new energy projects in this year's school tax levy apportionment calculation. In a little noticed, off-schedule meeting, without any mention of acting on Hague's request on the agenda, you summarily denied both our energy and our MYAA requests. Then, under the guise of New Business, the Board further committed to never treat Hague fairly in this respect by ruling that the energy projects would not ever be included in the apportionment process.

Finally, on July 9th you directed our Hague representatives to meet with the School District Superintendent instead of with the Board of Education. Our attempt to do so has not yet been met, and the final school tax levy is now set.

Mr. Russell and School Board Members, your constituents in Hague seek your cooperation and collaboration in a mutual effort to revisit the existing Ticonderoga Central School District arrangement in a manner that provides a better education for our students and, of equal importance, achieves a fair and equitable approach to determining school taxes. Thank you for listening. ▣

HVFD

by Donna Trudeau



The Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) ended the month of July with ten fire calls, five drills, and six EMS assists for a total of 260 volunteer hours.

EMS had a total of 29 calls with two drills, for a total of 113 volunteer hours. The HVFD has had a record number of EMS calls for July, which averaged out to a call a day.

Starting after Labor Day, we will be conducting a driveway survey to help us determine what apparatus will fit if our services are needed. This will help us help you in an emergency.

We would like to welcome Phillip Goetsch and Karin Frederick, who are active members. Karin is also an EMT.

We want to thank those who have supported our efforts at the Hague Music in the Park. It has been fun seeing those who enjoy a great evening at our Hague Park and Beach.

We will be holding a CPR class in October for our members and for anyone who would like to learn CPR. We will be setting the date and will let everyone know.

The HVFD serves our community; we always welcome anyone who is interested in what we do or who wants to learn how they can help; please do stop in as our doors are always open. We have many opportunities to give back to our community: Interior Firefighter, Exterior Firefighter, Scene Support, Junior Program, EMT, Attendants, and Drivers. We train and help pay for these classes.

As the weather starts to change, remember that leaves can make the roads slippery, so be careful. ▣

A HAIKU

by dl mattila

action painting
the old stone walls
lichen habitats ▣

TICONDEROGA BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATES 2024-2025

September 17, 2024

October 17, 2024

November 19, 2024

December 17, 2024

January 23, 2025

February 25, 2025

March 18, 2025

April 15, 2025

May 20, 2025 (8:30 pm) Budget

Vote and Board Member Election

June 17, 2025

Meetings are held at 6 pm at Ticonderoga High School. ▣

The Hague Chronicle is happy to publish announcements of births, marriages, graduations, anniversaries of 50/55/60/65+, awards, or deaths.

We will now include a high quality photo for publication in Soundings.

Please send information and photos to editor@thehaguechronicle.org.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) UPDATE

by Jack Bast

At the direction of Mark Russell, president of the Ticonderoga School Board of Education (BOE), on July 17, 2024, SAC requested a meeting with Superintendent Scott Nephew of the Ticonderoga Central School District (TCSD). The purpose in requesting the meeting was to resolve the impasse we're in with the BOE, which has repeatedly refused Hague recognition, respect, or cooperation regarding apportionment of the school tax levy. For over 20 years, Hague has paid more than 50% of the levy. As of August 20th, Nephew had not yet granted a meeting.

The 2024-2025 school tax levy rates were approved at the BOE meeting on August 20th. Hague's formal requests for consideration of both multi-year assessment averaging (MYAA) and Ti energy project full tax assessment had already been denied in the special June 27th BOE meeting. Hague's 2024-2025 rate is **\$7.6475333** /thousand of assessed value, which corresponds to **56.3%** of the total levy. This tax rate is **2.6%** higher than last year and the apportionment percentage is an increase from last year's **55.9%**.

Supervisor Josh Patchett, several SAC members, and a host of Hague residents attended the August 20th BOE meeting. Patchett presented a strong Hague statement expressing our concern about the ongoing lack of cooperation and collaboration with Hague being evidenced by the BOE. Patchett emphasized that it is now warranted to revisit the school tax apportionment arrangement that has existed since our School District merger 45 years ago. We were again rebuffed by the chair of the BOE Meeting.

The Hague School Advisory Committee has now been working for one year. Regrettably, we have not yet made any progress in changing our tax apportionment. But, we've learned a lot about the process and we understand much better why the three previous attempts were not successful. And, we now have a Hague resident on the BOE in Donna Wotton - thank you Donna!!!

SAC is not going away! We are continuing our efforts. ▣

LGOWS OPEN WATER SWIM, CONTINUED

5k Male

Matthew Distler, Stoughton, MA, 1:15:56
Rafael Kowal, Plattsburgh, NY, 1:18:18
Spencer Marquardt, East Falmouth, MA, 1:21:16



5k Female

Rebecca Wassner, New York, NY, 1:16:11
Jacqueline Fasano, New York, NY, 1:16:29
Laurel Wassner, Jersey City, NJ, 1:18:28



5k Non-Binary

Luke Hollifield, NY, 1:49:20

10k Male

Ashley Honey, Greenwich, CT, 2:39:17
Albert Garcia, Barrington, RI, 2:41:24
Ryan Shea, Halethorpe, MD, 2:44:33



10k Female

Jocelyn Midgette, East Arlington, VT, 2:46:14
Kimberly Hammond, Avon, NY, 2:58:30
Elizabeth Harding, Charlotte, VT, 2:59:43

The winners won backpacks and glassware. ▣

SECOND ANNUAL ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC BOAT SHOW HELD IN HAGUE

The Antique and Classic Boat Society (ACBS), founded on Lake George 50 years ago, hosted its Second Annual Hague Show on Friday, August 23, 2024. It was a run up to the main show, which is held annually on the Saturday before Labor Day weekend in Lake George Village. The sight of the gleaming and polished mahogany hulls, the unmistakable low rumble of the engines starting up, and even the smell of the gasoline is an amazing sensory experience for young and old.

Eighteen boats from around the north basin were on display in the town launch slip as well as on trailers in the parking lot, delighting the constant stream of visitors who came to the town park that morning.

(Continued on p. 6)



"Duchess" - a Fay & Bowen, dated as pre-1914, owned by Judy Larter of Silver Bay

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 7/25/2024

Present were Chairman Robert Goetsch, Linda Mury, Chris Navitsky, Jon Hanna, and Tina Barth-King. Also present were ZEO Ed Kirchberger and Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello.

OLD BUSINESS:

CUNNINGHAM (OXFORD COTTAGE) (76.20-1-32) 4 Silver Bay Road

The applicants are requesting a variance after-the-fact for a small shed attached to the cottage to house the water system. (Water tank, hot water heater and sediment and UV filters)

Zoning Issue: 160-50 B (b) Shoreline setback

Discussion included concerns about other additional zoning issues involving the property, but Kirchberger and Goetsch felt the board should only be dealing with the issue involving the shed addition to the cottage. King asked that more dimensions involving the cottage and shed addition be provided by the applicants, including original and new footprints. After further discussion, a motion was carried 5-0 to schedule a public hearing on this project for the next ZBA meeting in August.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. CUNNINGHAM (OXFORD COTTAGE) (76.20-1-32, 4 Silver Bay Road

Counsel for the property owner is seeking to overturn and vacate a stop-work order issued on June 6, 2024 by Kirchberger regarding failure to make known the circumstances created by their excavation as discovered by Kirchberger and various ZBA and planning board members on their site visit.

Goetsch asked Kirchberger to explain the stop-work order issue, which entailed the failure of the applicants to notify the town of a potentially dangerous situation resulting from their excavation near the adjacent southern property owners' property line and foundation. Kirchberger chose to issue a stop-work order based on Section 160-90 of the code, which would allow the applicants to retain their present application, propose solutions to the problems, and possibly continue on with their construction without starting over with a new application. Kirchberger asked for support from the ZBA for the justification of his reasoning behind the issuance of the stop-work order. Kirchberger does not think the applicants have offered any solutions to the problem. Additionally, he thinks that a public hearing would be the next step in the process. Navitsky asked for more information regarding the approved plans for the project. After further discussion, a motion carried 5-0 to schedule a public hearing for this project for the next ZBA meeting.

2. ENGLER (43.5-1-26) 9077 Lakeshore Drive, (HP) VAR 08-24, (SP) 04-24.

The applicant is asking to replace an existing retail single story building with a new two-story mixed-use building with retail on bottom and a residence above.

Zoning Issues: 160-20A Front yard setback, 160-65 Continuation of non-forming structure, 25% increase.

Kirchberger felt there were some significant changes made from the original plan, which had been denied in 2021. A motion to schedule a public hearing on this project for the next ZBA meeting was carried 4-1 (King).

3. HARRISON (26.17-2-42.121) 9110 Lakeshore Drive (HP) VAR 11-24

Retaining wall over four feet high. Previously gained development after-the-fact, but still requires a variance due to height.

Zoning Issue: 160-52 B Wall over four feet erected.

Kirchberger reported that he spoke with the applicant, who will obtain a report from an engineer who will address the problems with the wall to resolve all the issues in question. The motion to table this project until next month's meeting carried 5-0.

4. SMITH (43.5-1-32) 9104 LAKESHORE DRIVE

The applicant wants to replace an existing lawful non-conforming single family residence structure which contains a conforming use.

Zoning Issues: 160-50 B (b) Expansion within shoreline setback. 160-20 A Expansion within front line setback 12.18-1-11

Kirchberger reported that a site visit had been done with the planning board members on 7-24-2024, during which time several concerns with the project were brought up. Kirchberger has been in touch with Erik Sandblom of SRA Engineers and he will be working on bringing additional information/options to the planning and ZBA boards to help resolve the concerns stemming from the site visit. A sketch plan review will be done with the planning board. After discussion, a motion to table this project until more information is available carried 5-0. The applicant thanked Kirchberger and the planning board for visiting the site and for offering guidance going forward.

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

PLANNING BOARD - 8/1/2024

Present were Chairman Pam Peterson, Sandra Powell, Edna Frasier, Judy Gourley, and Meg Haskell. Also present were ZEO Ed Kirchberger, Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello, Mr. Smith, and Erik Sandblom of SRA Engineers.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ENGLER (43.5-1-26) 9077 Lakeshore Drive (HP) VAR 08-24, (SP) 04-24

Replacement of an existing retail single-story building with a new two-story mixed-use building with retail on the bottom and a residence above.

Zoning Issues: 160-20A Front yard setback and 160-65 Continuation of non-conforming structure, 25% increase.

Powell recused herself as she is an immediate neighbor to this property.

Kirchberger reported that the applicant had provided him with some information pertaining to the difference between this application and an old application and this information was included in the board members' packets. Frasier asked about the availability of a DOT report. Engler reported that this was done before the "Made in Hague" store was opened there. Peterson asked that a site visit be scheduled, maybe in conjunction with members of the ZBA. She also asked that the site be marked clearly before the site visit and that the neighbors be notified of the visit. The site visit was scheduled for Monday, August 12, 2024 at 3 pm.

2. SMITH (43.5-1-32) 9104 Lakeshore Drive

The applicant wants to replace an existing lawful non-conforming single-family residence structure which contains a conforming use.

Zoning Issues: 160-50 B (b) Expansion within shoreline setback. 160-20 A Expansion within frontline setback.

A site visit was done on July 24, 2024. Kirchberger reported that Sandblom and the applicant were both present and wanted to get feedback from the board from a sketch plan discussion to take back to modify the proposal to meet requirements after receiving some preliminary feedback from the site visit. They presented an existing and a proposed footprint of the site plan with some modifications of setbacks and areas of non-conformance. Discussion included reducing the total square footage, making the setbacks more conforming, parking, drainage, possibly moving the structure farther back from the road, location of propane tanks, and stormwater runoff. Because the project will likely require variances, the applicant's next steps will involve further consultation with the ZEO and ZBA. Sandblom and the applicant expressed gratitude for the board's input thus far.

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

TOWN BOARD - 8/13/2024

Present were Supervisor Joshua Patchett and Board Members Martin Fitzgerald and Chris Richards. Jack Bast attended via ZOOM and Maureen Cherubini was absent. Also present were Highway Superintendent Chad Dunklee, ZOOM Coordinator Tim Fiallo, Tracey Clothier, Donna Trudeau, Bob Holmes of RU Holmes, Michael Randall, and 24 community members. There were six attendees via ZOOM.

A moment of silence was observed for Walter Porter, Ray Snyder, and Robert Wotton.

WELCOME GUESTS/PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Patchett and the board were asked questions about potential upgrades to the Hague Visitor Center.

Community members expressed concerns about the size, included features, the preservation of the beach/picnic area, parking upgrades, funding, and the timing of committee meetings.

Patchett reassured the community that there will be involvement in addressing these questions, stating that the upgrade plans are still in the conception stage. Future committee meeting dates and times will be posted on the town's website.

Randall requested that the board consider placing fencing or a tree line between his property and the highway department. The board will explore options.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Tracy Clothier provided an overview of the town's contract with JMZ Architects/Planners, explaining that the 2020 comprehensive plan, completed by the LA Group, is currently under review. The visitor center is not meeting current needs. Clothier noted:

- Community involvement is planned to discuss needs.
- The size of the future visitor center is currently unknown and will be determined with the architect.
- A cost proposal will be prepared for discussion.
- The architect will present a draft and site plan to the committee.
- These drafts and plans will go before the board.
- The town's portion of the architect's fees is \$5,000, with the balance funded by grants.

Trudeau, representing the Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD), stated that the HVFD will conduct a class for town employees on the operation of the new AEDs at the community and visitor centers. She also mentioned the need for volunteers, inviting community members to join the HVFD. Interested individuals can contact the HVFD at 518-543-6059.

Holmes provided a brief overview of the need for the requested variance for a holding tank on the property. A motion was carried to set a public hearing on waste water variances for Sally Markert at 9685 Lakeshore Drive, Hague, on September 10th at 6 pm at the Hague Community Center.

Waste Water Variances: A motion was carried to approve waste water variances for Peter and Melba Tacy at 9588 Lakeshore Drive, Hague.

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds/Community Center/ Enhancement: Two bids have been received for staining two sides of the community center building.

Highway: The department has been busy with ditch and tree work. A proposal was made for a new plow blade and poly spreader for consideration at next month's meeting.

Personnel: The reorganization of the community center staff is complete. Donna Clarke is now the Front Desk Receptionist/Clerk. On-the-job training for new hires will continue. Diane Trudeau, who served Hague for over

TOWN BOARD, CONTINUED

four decades, retired in July, but will continue to serve on the Sewer Advisory Committee. The board expressed gratitude to Diane for her service.

The Personnel Committee has reviewed applications and recommended appointments for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) alternate positions.

Recreation and Promotion and Youth: Silver Camp's 2024 season will end next week.

Sewer District #1 & #2 There was an annual inspection by NYS DEC at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The official report is pending, but unofficial feedback was positive. The Sewer Advisory Committee approved changes to EDU assignments for vacant lots. Other updates include the arrival of a new WWTP lawnmower, the expected installation of a new air compressor, and ongoing discussions about a new WWTP truck. A building closure and main gate locked policy will be enacted later in this meeting.

Environmental Concerns: The knotweed program is underway.

Technology and Communications: The ZOOM equipment has been upgraded.

School Advisory Committee: Bast reported efforts to meet with the Superintendent of Ticonderoga Central School District to resolve an impasse regarding school tax levy apportionment. Hague residents are urged to

attend the Board of Education meeting on August 20th at 6 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Hague received a \$15,000 grant from the Glens Falls Foundation. Desiree LaPointe was thanked for her efforts in securing the SWIMS Grant, which will fund lifeguard training, recruitment, and retention.

NEW BUSINESS

Motions were carried to:

- Authorize Patchett to sign the contract with JMZ Architects/Planners for \$34,800
- Approve a new open gate policy
- Add Ginger Kuenzel as a member of the Visitor Center Committee
- Approve EDU vacant lot changes
- Authorize Patchett to sign the Met-tel contract, updating equipment
- Approve a new Social Media Policy

TOWN BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Motions were carried to:

- Appoint Henry Friedman as an alternate on the Planning Board, with a term expiring in 2025

Appoint Alane Vogel as an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals, with a term expiring in 2027.

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

HAGUE ANTIQUE BOAT SHOW, CONTINUED

Ed Becker, past president of the Adirondack Chapter of the ACBS, was extremely pleased with the show. "The Town of Hague was so accommodating in terms of the organization. I want to particularly thank Joshua Patchett for his personal attention to every detail and Leo Lucas, who was there at 6 am to help us set up and stayed all morning doing whatever was needed to make it a great show. We have nothing but praise for the Town of Hague. We definitely want to come back next year."

Many owners in the north basin are hesitant to take their boats all the way to Lake George Village for the Saturday show. One never knows what the weather and winds will be; and the engines can also be finicky at times. That's why the ACBS decided to launch the Hague event last year. It gives



owners the chance to display their fabulous boats – many of which have been lovingly restored – and enables local residents to get an up-close look and talk to the owners. It sounds like Hague will be fortunate and have the Friday show here on an annual basis going forward. ▣

TOP LEFT: "Better Already" - a Chris Craft from 1947, owned by John and Karen Beekley of Hague

TOP RIGHT: "Roaring Twenties" - a Hacker from 1927, owned by Sandy Morehouse and Patty Hogan, of Ticonderoga

BOTTOM: "Baby Lyman" - a Lyman from 1956 owned by Mountain Motors of Hague



SOUNDINGS

BORN: Westcott Barron Finch, June 17, 2024, parents Kenny Finch and Suzanne Ritzdorf Finch, grandparents Russell North and Karen Faber North, great-grandmother Eleanor Roos Faber

BORN: Kobe North Kang, June 27, 2024, parents Yogi Kang and Mary North, grandparents Russell North and Karen Faber North, great-grandmother Eleanor Roos Faber

DIED: Raymond Joseph Snyder, 87, of Hague, peacefully, at his home on Friday, July 26, 2024, with his family by his side, under the loving care of High Peaks Hospice. He fought a very long and difficult battle with cancer.



Born in Ticonderoga, he lived a full and happy life.

He enlisted in the Navy in 1955 and experienced the beauty of Alaska, Hawaii, and Japan.



He purchased his home in Hague in 1962 and married his wife, Diane, on September 29, 1962. His home became his pride and joy, with its brook and view of the waterfalls.

Ray worked for International Paper Company from the time he left the Navy until his retirement in 2001. During those years, he was an assistant Boy Scout leader, United Paper Workers Union member and treasurer, and a long-time trustee of the Hague Seniors group. One of his favorite jobs with the seniors was coordinating the Hague Memorial Day Parade line-up.

His garden was a huge part of his life and he loved sharing the fruits of his labor with his many friends and family. His hobbies included stamp collecting, jigsaw puzzles, reading westerns, hunting and fishing, feeding the birds, watching the deer and turkeys, and feeding "Wonk." He especially loved

having company and hosting clambakes and fish fries.

Ray was predeceased by his sister Shirley Carey (Don) and his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, John and Charlotte Brown.

He is survived by his: wife of almost 62 years, Diane Snyder; daughter, Michelle Gregoire (Tim); son, James Snyder; grandchildren: Jessica, Nicole, Robert, Kayla, Destiny, Akiia, Tyler, and Carlie; great-grandchildren: Zakkerya, Kayden, Carson, Charlotte, Carlos, Jr. and Mariaelena; and many nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank the Hague Ambulance Squad, the staff at High Peaks Hospice, the CR Wood Cancer Center in Glens Falls, and the Hague Seniors Club, which became a second family to Ray and Diane.

The family asks that donations be made to one or more of the above mentioned groups in Ray's memory.

DIED: Ruth Marion (Egan) Shelton, 90, of Hague, peacefully, on August 10, 2024, surrounded by her children, Greg, Karen, and her son-in-law Faust.

Ruth was born on July 11, 1934, in Scotia to Marion K. (Kelley) Egan and Michael J. Egan, the youngest of three children. A graduate of Nott Terrace High School in Schenectady, Ruth was a majorette and a dedicated student, earning honors in 1952. Following graduation, she began her career at New York Telephone Company as a stenographer and retired in 1989 as an inside sales manager, having never missed a day of work.



Ruth met the love of her life, Jerry Shelton, through a mutual friend and they shared an extraordinary bond. They married on November 10, 1956, and enjoyed 54 years of marriage, filled with dancing, singing, and performing in musicals with the Schenectady Light Opera Company and the Royal Wood Golf and Country Club in Naples, FL. Ruth and Jerry lived

in Schenectady, Niskayuna, and later retired to Hague, wintering in Naples, FL.

Ruth was predeceased by her: siblings, Robert F. Egan and Betty N. Grinter; beloved son, Andrew J. Shelton in 2005; and her daughter-in-law, Amy C. Shelton, in 2023.

She is survived by her: son, Gregory Shelton; daughter, Karen D'Andrea (Faust); four grandchildren, Ryan Shelton (Alli), Jenna Shelton (fiancé Kevin), Karissa Quach (John), and Haley Shelton; and her daughter-in-law, Kathryn Shelton.

Ruth's life was rich with friendships and family who adored her, including her nephews Glenn and Marc (Sandy) and her niece Laura (Ed). Her high school friends, lifelong companions, and those at Arcady and Amherst were all treasured parts of her life.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Ruth and Jerry's name to a charity of your choice, or to any of the following: T1D, CR Wood Cancer Center, Franklin Community Center, or High Peaks Hospice. ❑

DIED: Robert Deforest Wotton "Bob," 94, of Hague and Shelburne, VT, peacefully, at UVM Medical Center on July 31, 2024, with his family by his side.



Born in Brooklyn, NY on February 12, 1930 to Robert L. Wotton and Harriet Rainey Wotton, he lived a long and full life.

He loved the outdoors, became an Eagle Scout, built his own kayak, and restored the first of many sailboats as a teen. His parents built a summer cottage in Forest Bay in Hague in the 1940s, where he spent every summer sailing and fishing.

He graduated from Westwood High School in Westwood, NJ and went to Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, where he met and married his wife of 72 years, a pretty young nurse, Betty Louise Post.



(Continued on p. 8)

SOUNDINGS, CONTINUED

After a stint in the US Army, they moved to Pearl River, NY and then Montvale, NJ, where they raised their four daughters. He commuted to Manhattan, working for the NY Telephone Company and earned an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

In 1970, he left the corporate world to create Wotton Sailing Center, the largest indoor showroom of sailboats in the tri-state area serving sailors in new, used, restored, and repaired boats and all their accessories.

Bob was a champion Star Class sailor and served as commodore of the Northern Lake George Yacht Club from 1984 - 1987. He was also a world class ice boat sailor and even designed and built a small "training" iceboat class, the WISP.

In retirement, Bob and Betty were avid birders and golfers, first spending their winters in Largo, FL and then in Green Valley, AZ with many birding trips to remote eco-lodges throughout the US and Central America. From May through October, they resided in Hague, where he could be seen fishing daily in his favorite spots or golfing with the Sunday afternoon "couples." He loved spending time with his family and their many sailing, golf, and birding friends.

In the fall of 2019, he and Betty moved to The Residence at Shelburne Bay in Shelburne, VT to be closer to family and friends. Bob just stopped fishing last year...and that was only because his boat sank! He had many fishing companions: his sons-in-law, his grandsons, and, in later years, his buddies Steve, Gary,

and Mike, who now know where to find the big ones..."Bob's Best Bets."

He was pre-deceased by his: grandson, Richard L. Scarzello.

He is survived by his wife Betty; daughters Nancy Scarzello, Donna Wotton, Suzanne McManus (Robert), and Robin Faraone; grandchildren Tony Scarzello (Daisy), Emily Kilburn (Trever), Megan Coyne (Kyle) and Max McManus; and great-grandchildren Lucciana, Vitalia and Evalina Scarzello and Jack and Rhet Kilburn.

Donations in his memory can be made to the Northern Lake George Yacht Club Junior Sailing Endowment Trust (JSET) fund or the Lake George Association.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. ▣

PROPERTY OWNERS OF SILVER BAY ANNUAL MEETING

by Linda Fusco

On July 29, 2023, the Property Owners of Silver Bay (POSB) held its annual membership meeting at the Hague Community Center. POSB President Linda Fusco welcomed 84 members from the Silver Bay/Hague community to the meeting. Linda noted that the initial efforts for expansion into many other neighborhoods resulted in adding two liaisons to the organization (from Forest Bay and Pine Cove).

This past year the POSB board has developed a logo and a motto, "Neighbors Working Together." A POSB Manual of Practice was written, approved and posted on our website.

Linda led a moment of silence for those family and friends from Silver Bay and Pine Cove that have passed away this past year. The annual membership business meeting was conducted and the 2023 meeting minutes, the treasurer's report, and the slate of POSB board members were unanimously approved by the membership:

- President Linda Fusco; Vice-President/Webmaster Bill Klebe; Corresponding Secretary Laura Lee Yohanan; Recording Secretary Gail Haldeman; and Treasurer/Assistant Historian Rick MacDowell.
- Past Presidents: Emeritus, Sandy Mitchell and Archives Historian, Carol Kanis.
- Facebook Administrator, Blake Mitchell; Graphics Designer/Highway Cleanup Coordinator, Paul Budd.
- POSB members at large: Chris Parlin (Ti Alliance), Mimi Behr (Communication Distribution), Carolyn Hoeschele (Silver Bay Council), Marge Mengers, and Richard Berls.
- Liaisons: Forest Bay - John Lipori and Pine Cove - Bobbi Taylor

After the business meeting, Linda introduced the following speakers:

- Hague Town Supervisor Josh Patchett, who reported on the fiscal improvements he has initiated during the first year of his term. Josh shared with the membership his future vision of growing Hague into a four-season town and gaining status for being

designated as a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP).

- CEO Silver Bay YMCA Peter Doliber, who distributed a flyer with Silver Bay's accomplishments from the past 18 months: program additions, and free or fee community service options for residents of Hague, Bolton Landing, and Ticonderoga. The Silver Bay YMCA has been selected as the operator of the Early Learning Child Center located at the former St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga.
- Superintendent of Ticonderoga Central School District (TCSD) Scott Nephew and Principal of the Ticonderoga Jr./Sr. High School John Donohue were first-time presenters to the POSB membership. Scott and John's slide show, "It's a great day to be a sentinel; an in-depth intro to rural education," emphasized the challenges that the TCSD K-12 faces as a rural school district. The district provides for students through a student-centered philosophy and lauded a long-term teaching staff as a key to progress.

(Continued on p. 9)

POSB MEETING, CONTINUED

- The growth in POSB's membership can be attributed to the articles published in *The Hague Chronicle* (much thanks) and to the 24/7 presence of information on our website [HERE](#). POSB members have the choice when they join to receive these emails from the website. Bill Klebe, the website coordinator, keeps the members informed of happenings in Hague and Ticonderoga and encourages our members to support the various fundraisers and concerts. A copy of the July 29, 2024 POSB membership meeting minutes will be posted on the website.

For more information, contact me at lindafuscophd@gmail.com. ❏

BECOME AN ALGAE WATCHER

The Lake George Association (LGA) invites all lake lovers to volunteer to keep an eye out for excessive algae growth – particularly [harmful algal blooms \(HABs\)](#). When you become a member of the AlgaeWatch program, you will monitor shoreline or near-shore areas, document the growth of algae, and report your findings to the LGA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.



LGA AlgaeWatchers receive email alerts any time water and weather conditions are especially conducive to HAB formation, as well as notifications of any ongoing HABs. Excessive algae growth is a serious and growing threat to Lake George water quality. A major HAB is something we all want to avoid.

Click [HERE](#) to volunteer and to watch a video showing the basics of a HAB and some of the things you can do on your property to help prevent them. ❏

BLUEGRASS IN HEAVEN AT SILVER BAY

The Bluegrass in Heaven festival will be returning for its second year from September 13-15, 2024 at Silver Bay.

There will be headliner performances by Della Mae and Darin and Brooke Aldridge and performances by Country Gongbang, On the Trail, Fiddlers Three, The Ruta Beggars, and Jamcrackers.

There will also be a dance workshop hosted by the Quickstep Dance Leaders.

Get tickets by clicking [HERE](#). ❏



LGLC RAISES MORE THAN \$300,000

More than 300 generous donors and guests helped to raise over \$300,000 for land conservation projects as part of the Lake George Land Conservancy's (LGLC) 25th Annual Gala, the Land and Water Conservation Celebration, held Friday, August 2, 2024.

Guests enjoyed music by the Jabez Pond Boys, a seated dinner, music, and dancing with DJ Trumastr. As the LGLC's largest fundraising event, the evening also included a record-breaking silent auction and Fund-A-Need.

Rick Tamlyn emceed the evening and led a lively Fund-A-Need that raised more than \$300,000 for three active projects: the 73-acre Truesdale Hill Uplands in Lake George, 30-acre Twin Pines Addition in Bolton, and 92 acres in Putnam that will connect the LGLC's Sucker Brook Preserve and Anthony's Nose Preserve. Thanks to the gifts and pledges received, the LGLC will be able to move forward with the permanent protection of all of these lands.

LGLC Executive Director Mike Horn said, "I am humbled and amazed by the enthusiasm shown for our current land protection projects and our mission to permanently protect the land that protects Lake George."

Horn continued, "The success of this event would not have been possible without the generous support of the Honorary Committee, business sponsors, silent auction donors, and volunteers, for which we are extremely grateful."

Among the thirty items offered in the silent auction, guests could bid on pieces of art donated by local artists Al Rider, Seddon Beaty, and Susan Darrin.

The event was held on the lawn of the beautiful Silver Bay YMCA Conference and Family Retreat Center in Silver Bay, providing a perfect setting to celebrate the connection between land and water on the shore of Lake George, with a clear view of the three-mile stretch of land on the east side of Lake George that has been permanently protected by the LGLC and partners.

More information about the LGLC's current projects, events, and more can be found [HERE](#). ❏

LGA'S FUND HELPS RESIDENTS FINANCE SEPTIC AND OTHER PROJECTS

The Lake Impact Fund (LIF) was established by the Lake George Association in 2024 to provide financial assistance to residents in the Lake George basin who undertake lake protection projects on their property. Residents who are required to upgrade their septic system under the Lake George Park Commission's (LGPC) septic inspection program can apply for grants to help cover the costs. Qualified applicants are eligible for up to 50 percent of the total project cost of upgrading their septic systems, with a maximum grant of \$10,000. Grants are based on financial need and are distributed as a reimbursement once the project is completed. Click [HERE](#) to learn more. ▣

TICONDEROGA COMMUNITY EARLY LEARNING CENTER WILL OPEN IN SEPTEMBER

Silver Bay YMCA has been working tirelessly to put the finishing touches on the Ticonderoga Community Early Learning Center to get it ready for its opening on September 3, 2024.



Photo by Silver Bay YMCA Staff of the Ticonderoga Community Early Learning Center

Silver Bay YMCA CEO Peter Doliber said, "We are thrilled and excited to have been selected as the operators for the Ticonderoga Community Early Learning Center. Providing quality experiences for preschool children will prepare them for a lifetime of learning. We know this will

(Continued on p. 13)

LGA CLEAN-UP DAY

The Lake George Association (LGA) is calling all lake protectors to roll up their sleeves on Sunday, September 15, 2024 for its Second Annual Clean-up Day.

Residents, visitors, and businesses are encouraged to join the LGA and a community of volunteers to remove the trash in and around Lake George Village. The Warren County Sheriff's Dive Team will be leading underwater clean-up efforts while volunteers can choose to clean up the village shoreline *or their own properties*.

Last year more than 100 residents and businesses participated, filling a 30-yard dumpster with garbage from our beautiful Lake George. ▣

LGA GALA A HUGE SUCCESS

This year's Lake George Association (LGA) Gala at the Sagamore Resort on July 12, 2024 hosted a record-breaking 380 people!

Heather Ward and Chad Kilborne, chair and board member, respectively, of the Wright Family Foundation accepted the Killeen Lake Protector Award on behalf of the foundation's generous support of the LGA since 2015. Thanks to their backing, over the next two years the LGA will distribute nearly \$400,000 to qualifying property owners who are upgrading their septic systems per the Lake George Park Commission's (LGPC) regulations.

The evening also debuted the video, which featured community, staff, and partners sharing how and why we all protect Lake George.



TOP LEFT: Beth and Chris Navitsky; TOP RIGHT: Al and Brenda Rider; BOTTOM LEFT: Ginger Henry Kuenzel and Susan Darrin; and BOTTOM RIGHT: Doug and Pam Chase

In-between these important, purposeful moments there was lots of fun. Browse Gala photos [HERE](#) from early check-in to late-night dancing. ▣

LGA ANNUAL REPORT

From program successes to financial stewardship, the Lake George Association's (LGA) latest report tracks the LGA's Lake Protection progress through the lens of members, achievements, and a financial summary that reflects the findings of a third-party audit conducted to ensure fiscal responsibility and best practices by the LGA.

The LGA is grateful to its members, whose generous donations enable it to partner, innovate, educate, and invest in keeping Lake George clear and clean. View the 2023 annual report [HERE](#). ▣

LOOKING BACK

THE HAGUE ARTS FAIR

by Shelly Gautreau and Nancy Young



The first Hague Arts Fair was held August 4, 1973. The following was reported in the September 1973 issue of *The Hague Chronicle*.

The Hague Arts Fair – A Success?

Was the Hague Arts Fair held on August 4 a success? This is a question that a lot of people have asked.

For those who had wares to sell, it was probably not much of a success. There was little evidence that many items were purchased. The hottest item in this category was the Home Bureau Cookbook of which more than 20 were sold.

But for those who exhibited merely for the thrill of showing off their creations to their fellow townspeople, it was a great success. And for those who came to see the mass of talent that Hague was able to assemble on a hot August afternoon, it was likewise a great thrill.

Should the fair be continued next year, and the year after that? By all means! It is the best way yet for Hague to present itself to the summer tourists and to its own townspeople as a talented and cultured community proud of its residents. Also a real opportunity is given to summer and year round residents to spend a day in mutual admiration of each other.

Credit for proposing the fair in the first instance goes to Mr. [RUDY] Meola, [SR.] who assembled a group in his office early in the year to consider the proposal. However, the group of women...Mrs. Meola, Strumm, [Mrs.] Brock, [Mrs.] Crabbs and [Mrs.] Seerup and the high school students, Sally DeLarm and Mary Samascott, who took the ball and carried it, also deserve credit.

If the Hague Arts Fair is to be continued, we think it requires a sponsoring organization and we can think of no more appropriate organization than the Hague Chamber of Commerce. We urge that it does so.

Update:

The Hague Arts Fair, last recorded in *The Hague Chronicle* as being held in the summer of 2015, was the 43rd one and had been sponsored by the Hague Chamber of Commerce since 1974. The write up in *The Hague Chronicle* in 1973 stated, "more than 25 individuals and organizations had signed up." And, in 1974, "a guess in excess of over 500 persons attended the fair."

For the first eight years, there was no charge to be an exhibitor. In 1981, the chamber decided to charge \$5 for a full day per exhibitor. After ten years of hosting a one-day fair, the chamber extended it to a two-day affair. In 1983, the following quote was published (in an article in *The Hague Chronicle*) – "All items should be hand-made or home-baked. This is NOT a flea market." Also, "For exhibitors, there will be a charge of \$10 for either day or \$15 for the two-day show."

In 1988, the charge went up to \$15 for one day and \$25 for two days. In 1991, the charge for exhibitors went up again to \$20 for one day or \$30 for both days.

From 1973 until 1991, the Hague Arts Fair was held in the park at the town beach. In 1991, the location was moved to the new community center and was held there each year thereafter.

In 1996, the fair name was changed to the Hague Arts and Craft fair. A quote at that time in an article in *The Hague Chronicle* stated

there would be "approximately 50 exhibitors from neighboring counties and states" and that "this fair is now a cross-section of local talent and Adirondack art."

In 2005, the fair was back to its original name, the Hague Arts Fair. In 2005, it reverted to the Hague Arts and Craft Fair. In 2009, there was yet another new name, the Hague Arts Fair

and Farmers Market. In 2010, again and finally, the original name was used.

The Hague Chamber of Commerce merged with the Ticonderoga chamber in 2020. The new name was the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC).

There were many people who helped organize and promote the fair through the years and they all deserve a hearty thank you for caring about the town and its people. For those who spent time creating and exhibiting, it was likely a fun (though not always fruitful) way to see new faces and talk to friends, neighbors and strangers with stories of their own.

A "fair" to exhibit home-made, home-baked items stood its ground for a long time. It may be that its demise came due to commercialism or a loss of interest. We both attended and/or exhibited items and are happy we were able to experience the "Hague Arts Fair." ■



LGLC GIVES HENRY M. ROWAN AWARD

More than 120 people gathered at the Top of the World in Lake George as honored guests of the Lake George Land Conservancy's (LGLC) 11th Annual President's Reception, Wednesday, August 14, 2024.

The LGLC's Rowan Award is given annually to recognize exemplary individuals and organizations for their conservation efforts around Lake George. It follows the spirit of its namesake, Henry M. Rowan of Hague, who received the inaugural award in 2003.

This year's Rowan Award was presented to Cornelia Van Dyck Wells, who is retiring from the LGLC in September, after working for the LGLC for 18 years as its Finance and Office Manager. She has multigenerational ties to Lake George and its conservation. Her parents were very involved in organizations protecting the lake, and her daughter is a member of the LGLC's NextGen Committee.

Hank Rowan's daughter, Ginny Rowan Smith, who is also a member of the LGLC Advisory Board and a Director Emeritus, presented the evening's award to Wells.

Smith said, "Behind every great organization is a great individual who holds it all together, through thick and thin. That individual is our own Cornelia Wells. Cornelia is

kind-hearted, dependable, and is always willing to lend a hand to others when they need it. It truly is difficult to put into words what she has meant to this organization."

In accepting the award, Wells said, "It has been a privilege for me to work at the Land Conservancy, and I'm hoping that my being there helped to advance the mission - that's been my goal to protect the land that protects the lake. It is a lake I have loved all my life." ❑



L to R – Ginny Rowan Smith and Rowan Award recipient Cornelia Van Dyck Wells



Photo courtesy of Tony DeFranco

TICONDEROGA EARLY LEARNING CENTER, CONTINUED

help Ticonderoga continue to attract new businesses and employees. We are thankful to be a part of this new service.”

The Early Learning Center wouldn't have been possible without the partnership with Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance and St. Mary's Parish over the past year. The Early Learning Center is now in the final weeks before its doors open to the public.

“We're putting the classrooms together, getting our families to come check out the space, and finishing some training. I'm so excited for our community to be a part of a new style of child care and how this center will continue to evolve in the future. While we are based in Ticonderoga, this center is not only for residents of Ticonderoga, but also for residents in the surrounding communities as well...I can't wait to see how they benefit from the Early Learning Center,” stated Silver Bay YMCA Education Director Jackie Palandrani.

The Early Learning Center can care for up to 50 youths ranging from six weeks to five years old, with room for expansion and will be utilizing “Creative Curriculum” in its classrooms, which is a learning curriculum for all ages.

While the Early Learning Center is set to open Tuesday, September 3rd, it is still hiring for a few more positions.

Current job listings can be viewed [HERE](#).

Additionally, the Early Learning Center is still accepting applications for enrolling youth in the program. Applications are available through the Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance and at Silver Bay YMCA at the front desk or online at silverbay.org/youth-development.

Enrollment applications can be turned into Jackie Palandrani at the Ticonderoga Community Early Learning Center, 64 Amherst Ave. Ticonderoga, NY 12883. [█](#)

TI ARTS GALLERY: UPCOMING EXHIBITS

The Ti Arts Gallery is set to host a series of exciting exhibitions and events in September 2024.

First on the calendar is “Petals and Paintings” from September 12 – 14, 2024. The “Adirondack Harvest Plein Air” exhibit will be from September 17th – 21st, with an opening reception from 5 – 7 pm on Friday, September 20th.

There will be a juried show judged by Judith Ellers from September 25th – October 19th, with an opening reception from 5 – 7 pm on Friday, September 27th.

The gallery is located at 119 Montcalm Street in Ticonderoga and is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm.

Programming at Ti Arts is made possible by the NYS Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the NYS Legislature. [█](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE FORT

On September 14 and 15, 2024, there will be a battle reenactment of the 1777 Brown's Raid.



An attack led by patriot Colonel John Brown will take British troops garrisoning at Fort Ticonderoga by surprise 247 years later during this real-life action adventure at Fort Ticonderoga. There will be different experiences each day. For more information, click [HERE](#). [█](#)

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

The University of Vermont Health Network - Elizabethtown Community Hospital (ECH) will host community health screenings next month, with a focus on fall and winter activities such as hiking, hunting, or skiing. The screening events, which are free and open to the public, are scheduled at the hospital from 3 – 6 pm on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 in Ticonderoga.

Julie Tromblee, MSN, vice president and chief nursing officer for Elizabethtown Community Hospital, said, “While enjoying the great outdoors, it's important for folks to know their body can handle what is required of it before heading out on the trails or into the woods this season.”

Hospital staff will check blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, and oxygen levels as well as vision, height, and weight. EKG readings are also available to assess heart health and results will be mailed to participants within two weeks. Information about fall prevention, diabetes, and medication reconciliation will also be available.

For more information about the free health screenings, call 518-873-3125 or click [HERE](#). [█](#)

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, McDonough, 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
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Treasurer: Charlene Schaffer
Staff: Claire Best and Tina Barth King

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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Hague, New York 12836-0748



ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

CALENDAR

September 2024

SEPTEMBER

1	September issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i> published	17 – 21	ADK Harvest Plein Air at Ti Arts
2	LABOR DAY	18	3 – 6 pm Free Health Screenings at hospital
3	Opening of the Ti Community Early Learning Center	20	5 – 7 pm Opening Reception for ADK Plein Air at Ti Arts
8	NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY	20	6 pm Deadline for the October issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i>
12 – 14	“Petals and Paintings” at Ti Arts	22	7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals meeting
13 – 15	Bluegrass in Heaven at Silver Bay	24	1:30 pm Seniors Club regular meeting
13	6 pm Town Board meeting	25 – October 19	Juried show judged by Judith Ellers at Ti Arts
14– 15	Reenactment of 1777 Brown’s Raid at Ft. Ti	27	5 – 7 pm Opening Reception for Ellers show
15	LGA Clean-up Day		

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