

THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Surrounding Area

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Boyea's Lakeside, The Dockside Café, Mineville Oil and The North Cheever Yacht Club

MESSAGE FROM PAUL REESE

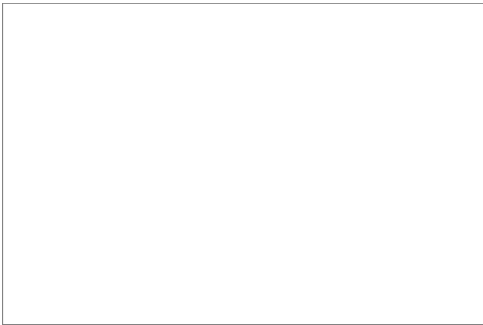
The North Cheever Yacht Club racing out of the Velez Marina has begun a new sailboat racing season. Look for the multicolored balloon shaped sails used in the downwind leg of the course. The club, an informal group of sailors (both novice and experienced) is always looking for new members.

The crew for each of the five boats in the fleet includes a helms person, a trimmer for the jib sheets, a foredeck person to handle the spinnaker and a pit person to launch the spinnaker. The races are kept short with several up-wind and down-wind legs so all the crew are kept busy.

Races are held Wednesday evenings, weather and wind cooperating. Sailors gather at the marina about 5 PM. Some races and learn-to-sail time is planned for weekends. There is no cost but we ask sailors to occasionally pitch in with boat preparation and maintenance. To get on the mailing list send email to

phj24@earthlink.net

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to Janet Beebe Denney and Aran Voss Hutchins who will share the first place prize in CAT's first ever Photo & Caption contest. Shown above is Janet's beautiful scenic photo. She tells the story of how a stranger became a friend due to a shared experience hiking up Cheney Mountain.

SMALL ENGINES AND CARS - GREAT NEWS!

John Eisenberg's Port Henry Service Center now has NON-ETHANOL gas! He has been trying to obtain it for a long time and May 28th (or 29) he received his first delivery. I, myself, am delighted. I don't have to drive to WAGS to "gas-up" and they have it only in the summer. John will have it all year long. Small engines, particularly, get "gunked-up" because of the ethanol and it isn't great for cars either.

MAGIC A-FOOT

Port Henry's resident Color Elves (aka Linda Smyth, Janet Beebe Denney and Meeghan Groalczyk) and some of their Elfettes have transformed "Gram" Celotti's front retaining wall on Convent Hill into a bed of many colored tulips. It seems all of those tulips grew and bloomed in just a couple of hours. I told you there was elf work a-foot.

More magic! On both bridges entering Port Henry. Magic created again this year by Ernie and Debbie Guerin with their beautiful boxes filled with many types and colors of flowers - *live*.

FROM OUR SCHOOL

Fact Finder requested a report, with statistics and impressions, from Nick Manfred on his Washington Spelling Bee trip. Here it is.

“As far as statistics, I correctly spelled both of my rounds 2 and 3 words which were *madeleine* and *iridectomy*. However I misspelled a few words in the round 1 vocabulary and spelling test. It was very close. The top 42 contestants moved on for semifinals and I placed in a tie for 43rd. Of course I was very disappointed and sad, but I handled it.

During the week, the trip was very enjoyable. We watched the semifinals and championship finals in person. We went to the Smithsonian and toured the Washington D.C. area while learning about the history behind this area. Before the competition had even begun we went to the spelling bee barbecue (which I thought was the best part). While we were there I met a few people that I had already met last year as well as new spellers. There were lots of games and competitions. Later on I was interviewed. The experience was once again amazing.

Unfortunately, this was my last official spelling bee competition and therefore my last time competing at the national level. I know for sure that I will continue to miss the spelling bee. I think that over everything else I have learned from the spelling bee experience, the most important thing is that I can do anything that I really want to do and work hard for. My advice for future spelling bee entrepreneurs is to study different languages and go beyond simply memorizing list after list of words. It will probably help in the long run. Above all, never give up on something you really enjoy doing. I wouldn't have been able to have had the spelling bee experience if I had. Lastly, I definitely am going to watch next year's regional spelling bee at my school. I am very curious to see who will win next year.”

For those readers who may not know Dallas Rich and Zachary Zelinski, Fact Finder would like to introduce them to you, respectively as Valedictorian and Salutatorian of Moriah Central School's graduating class of 2013.

Dallas Rich's name intrigued me, I wondered if there was a Texas connection somewhere, but Dallas didn't think so as his great-great grandfather was the first Dallas and it seems he lived in the same house today's Dallas lives in. The next question: what really interests him. He wants to know how and why “things” work; so it isn't strange that, come this Fall, he will be exploring engineering as a field of study at the University at Buffalo. Dallas explained that you could take an introductory course in mechanical, electrical and civil engineering to help you decide which to choose as your major interest. He thought civil might prove most interesting, designing bridges and roads and such.

Dallas will be entering college with 34 already-earned credits (math 7, social studies 9, science {physics, environmental, anatomy} 12, French 3 and English 3, about a semester's worth of college completed. These were obtained by taking advanced and Bridge Program courses while at Moriah Central. I asked if he had siblings. He has one younger brother who is into music, needing many of the same skills engineering requires.

Zachary Zelinski will also be entering college this Fall and also with 15 of those money-saving earned college credits. He will be going to Plattsburgh State, majoring in pre-med with possible emphasis on psychiatry or surgery. This seems a very courageous choice for a young man who, when asked what interested him most said, “Striving to be independent.”

The road to professional medical independence is a long one, 4 years of regular college, 4 years of medical school, a year or so of internship (one must exam out of this level), then residency and finally licensing. However, it seems he is already practicing the skills needed. He has worked at Boyea's Deli and Grocery for a year and will continue there this summer. Last summer he also worked at Camp Dudley and YCC. He even has had a bit of surgical practice. Just recently in science class they

dissected a cat and in 10th grade biology they put a pig under their knives. I was curious what had directed his innate interest in science toward medical. He said it was probably having watched *Grey's Anatomy* and *House*

I also asked him if he had siblings. The answer, "Yes, 2 brothers and six sisters." I'm sure there will be an extra large round of applause for Zachary at the June 21st graduation!

Fact Finder also requested an essay from Mr. McCaffrey's 10th grade class. Here is an excellent example by Madison Stahl.

Stephen King: One of America's Finest

Who is Stephen King and why is he so popular? In case you live under a rock, Stephen King is a well-known horror writer. He has sold over 350 million copies of his stories and some have been turned into major motion pictures. But what makes Stephen King so popular? What magic does he have with words that makes us lose touch with reality while reading his stories? Stephen King is simply a very effective writer.

Stephen King is an eminent storyteller. His stories flow naturally and are easy to read. Also, his dialogue is eerily precise. You can picture the character saying those exact words. He wrote in his memoir of writing, "As an author you must choose the correct word." Stephen King is an expert on playing with your mind. He often uses an unreliable narrator as the point of view. For example, in "The Man Who Loved Flowers," the narrator leads you to believe something that is false. While reading Stephen King, you never know what he will surprise you with next or how the story will end. "Good books don't give up all their secrets at once," he once said. King uses description like one would use salt to taste popcorn. He simply leaves the imagining to you, the reader, rather than overpowering you with descriptive words. Simply put, there is no better storyteller than Stephen King.

The vast majority of Stephen King's novels, short stories, memoirs, etc. revolve around terror. While writing in the genre, King has written stories that touch our deepest fears. For example, in the novel "It" the main character is a clown. Using a character that is already a fear of many of the readers helps enhance the interest and effectiveness of the novel.

According to his memoir, "On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft," he enjoys scaring people and likes to be known as the author that may be a bit crazy. He once said "I love crime. I love mysteries. I love ghosts." People love to be scared. People love to be grossed out. Stephen King knows that and has made a living off of it.

Taboo subjects do not always remain taboo in Stephen King's stories. King crawls into the dark spaces of life that no one else is bold enough to reach. He writes about topics we generally wouldn't want to discuss, yet we read it anyway. For example, "It" covers some accounts of child abuse. In many of King's stories, one or more of the characters is brutally killed. King's incorporating of these taboo subjects makes us want to read his stories still more.

Stephen King is likely to go down in history as a great America writer. No one will ever compare to his unique craft of writing. He has a way of writing that makes us wonder where the time went, 500 pages later. Stephen King is, quite frankly, an extraordinary, effective writer.

REPORT FROM THE MINEVILLE IRON ORE MAN CHALLENGE

by Linda Smyth

It was a beautiful but hot day for Cheney Mountain's Second Annual Mineville Iron Ore Man Challenge. This is one of many other CATS events that celebrate our wonderful Adirondack trail system. The head of the organization, Chris Maron, was on hand at 9am to kick off the day of events at

Cheney Mountain's starting point. Tim Garrison the local organizer, was there, under a tent, to greet people, encourage them and, for their donation of \$5, reward them with a patch at the end of the hike.

Just under thirty hikers participated. One local hiker from Ticonderoga, Malinda Chapman knew a lot about a particular invasive species of plant. She was educating people about it. Tim Garrison's young son wanted to be the first up the mountain. This is his tradition that he started last year. So he and Ray Bryant scurried ahead of others. Lots of hot and sweaty hikers immersed, but ALL were proud of their efforts and their support of our great local mountain with fantastic views.

One last important note. There has been a memorial bench placed at the top of the mountain facing west. Neil Larkin is responsible for this tribute. It is in honor of Tiffany Lang, a young woman killed in a car accident on White Church Rd. Moriah, who was his daughter's best friend.

The German who Came by Shuttle: Another Story of Visitors and Friendships

by Frank Martin

After reading Linda Smyth's inspiring story in *The Fact Finder*, "The Visitor who Fell from the Sky" - I am sharing my own story of meeting an adventurous traveler and introducing him to our village and its surrounds.

Last summer, on July 2, I was walking downtown and saw a young blond fellow with a backpack and a straw hat. I assumed he was an American college student. He was looking at map in front of Mount Moriah church. It was a hot day and, having been volunteering at our visitor information booth, I thought I could help him find his way.

It turns out that Port Henry was his destination and that he planned to camp here. The first thing he said to me was something like: "*Ya, hello. Do you know how to find transeet to Albany?*" My assumptions about him being American were clearly wrong and I asked where he was from. His name was Hans. He was from Munich in Germany and backpacking around New England.

What really amazed me was that he had traveled to Lake Placid and Saranac Lake and to our village all using public transit. Being from Germany, he was experienced in finding these transit connections that most of us who live here never learn about. He had used the Essex County shuttle from Ticonderoga.

I took him to the Information Booth and gave him some brochures. He said that, after visiting Lake Placid and other towns, he really liked Port Henry. "This is so *authentic*," he said of our buildings and downtown. Coming from Europe, he had a different view of what might be interesting in traveling. Lake Placid has gift shops and elegant hotels. But we had a history of working people, industry and architecture. He was fascinated by it.

He needed to get back to the Newark airport in a few days to fly back to Germany, hence his interest in getting to Albany. But, he also wanted to stay here for a few days. I told him that getting to Albany would mean taking the train, but it might be booked. In the meantime, he could stay at our village campground. I took him down there. Unfortunately, they are not very accustomed to tent campers and put him on a rather sun-dried site right by the rail tracks.

The next day, finding that the Amtrak train was indeed booked for the holiday, I decided to help Hans to find a Plan B. For his second night, I invited him to camp by McKenzie Creek, right next to my house. Plan B would take a little time, but in the meantime, we could take some tours. So we did. I took him to Mineville and Witherbee. I told him what I knew of the mining history here. I took him to Crown Point where we had Barbeque. Something he had never experienced before.

Hans, who had recently earned a masters degree in social work, was very curious about the history of the mines and the immigration to Port Henry. I took him up to Spring Street to see the vista and to Westport. We sat with my neighbors by the stream and Hans said he had a very peaceful night sleeping

on the pine needles, under the soaring trees, with the sound of the rapids and morning birds.

Plan B turned out to be a drive to Burlington on the Fourth of July. Megabus, a growing company, now has a line that runs between Burlington and New York City. I dropped Hans off at the center of UVM. In our drive over, I told him about what Fourth of July really means for Americans, how people used to gather to read the Declaration of Independence aloud, just as they did in 1776. Today, I explained, it's mostly parades and family parties...and we saw some of that on the way.

I wonder how many other European kids pass through Port Henry? We can share so much with them - and curious travelers can help us to rediscover the history of our village and the beauty of its setting. As Linda put it so nicely in her article on visitor greeting - "It is such an opportunity for ALL involved if you allow a stranger to become a friend."

Look for Fact Finder's next issue on June 22nd at the usual places.