

THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Vicinity

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a Book Discussion Group meeting at the Sherman Library, October 18, 6 pm. The book under discussion will be "Sing You Home" by Jody Picoult. If you haven't read the book but would like to learn about it, come and listen.

Because of the Columbus Day Holiday, the Village Board Meeting was not held on their usual second Monday of the month, but will be held this coming Monday, October 13th at the usual time, 7 pm. The Fact Finder encourages all villagers to take an active part in the running of the village by attending board meetings.

On October 25 and November 8, Moriah Central School students will be released early at 1 pm to allow teachers, administrators and staff to work on further implementing the complicated new requirements of the new State Core Standards and Evaluation System.

A new year of school art for Fact Finder begins with a cover by two second graders, Kade Gilbo and Allie Huchro. Kade's sunflower is on the left and Allie's on the right. Nice work! and "Thank you!" from the Fact Finder.

Shari Prim, their art teacher, is offering to take those "what-do-I-do-with-it" odd bits of latex and semi-latex paint off your hands. She welcomes all colors and all quantities. There is to be a new mural in the elementary wing and these donations will be used in the execution of this mural. Paint may be dropped off at Shari Prim's art room, during school hours, between now and December 20th. Donations are so welcomed and needed.

SCHOOL UPDATE

This past Thursday, I went to our School to meet with Bill Larrow, our Superintendent, for an update on building refurbishing and curriculum changes and/or improvements. I was in for a wonderful, fun surprise. The school, particularly the High School was decorated for Spirit Week. The hall leading to the High School area and each of its halls were filled with red and white balloons hanging from every possible spot that had not been filled with red, white and blue crepe paper (and a few other colors and inventive decorative items) draping the ceilings and creating curtains into each hall. The seniors had a hall to decorate, the juniors had their hall and the sophomores and freshmen joined forces for a hall. Who couldn't "get the spirit" walking through such halls - plus - each day you have to dress differently, in your Class Colors, or red and white for the School Colors, be a Red Neck or join with a friend and become a twin. Friday culminates this great week with a Pep Rally Day and the wearing of sports jerseys. Prior to the kick-off of Friday's Home Coming game, senior Viking's, with their parents, will be recognized for all they have done toward instilling school spirit. At half-time, the Town of Moriah celebrates Youth Recognition Day by honoring, along with those all-important *volunteer* coaches, Youth Soccer, Youth Cheerleaders, and Youth Football.

Now to the *meat* of our meeting. The school expects an unusually challenging and fulfilling educational year for K-12 by implementing the Federal Common Core Standards now adopted by New York State. By adopting the Federal standards, the State received "Race to the Top" funds, which, in turn affect the monies the State distributes to schools. For the students this means there will be an increased in-depth approach to each subject, more time in which to explore the nooks and crannies of a subject, that best and most enjoyable area of a subject. Students, remember if you ask the question, you will remember the answer. This is going to be an exciting year for the whole school community. Change can create limitless possibilities. "Go Moriah!" students, teachers, administrators, and staff.

Moriah Central School has been officially designated as a prime shelter for Port Henry in case of a disaster. The last Capital Project focused on improvements which would create a good disaster shelter for the community - new ramps and railings for added accessibility and safety, up-grading of heating and plumbing, replacement (where needed) of showers and jons. A new boiler has been installed, new roofs are in place - and - there is an emergency generator that will run the whole building. Now, the best part, everything was paid for by an Excel Grant and State Aid! Again - "Go Moriah!"

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEIGHBORS

Norm and Shirley Monette hosted the second annual Moriah Classic Car and Truck Show on Saturday, October 6th, at the Port Henry Knight's of Columbus. The weather was a bit "iffy" but kinder than it was for the first annual show, when it just plain rained. The weather is an important factor for car shows, particularly as some of the owners have invested sixty, seventy, up to eighty thousand dollars (maybe more) in their beloved vehicles. If rain is a possibility, they stand at the ready with their chamois or big thick bath towel to dry their treasures as quickly as they can. This show boasted 41 entrants vying for one of the "Top Fifteen" trophies and "Best of Show." These trophies are awarded by all the entrants judging each other and submitting their numbered choices (of course, excluding their own car) to be tallied. The "Flying Farmer" attended but was not entered in the show, as Norm and Shirley were the show hosts. In the Spring, the "Flying Farmer" was entered in the Keeseville Show and won a "Top Ten" award. Recently Shirley, Norm and the "Farmer" attended the two-day National Northeastern Car Show in Syracuse. There were over 9000 cars there and would have been more except that space ran out and cars had to be turned away. In all those 9000 cars, Norm and Shirley saw only one other '57 Chevy Bel Aire Four-door Hard-top, that is how rare the "Flying Farmer" is. Norm and the "Farmer" have been a pair since 1960 when he bought his pet and, until children became part of the equation, the two of them flew around first one track then another in the Northeast, hence the "Flying" part of the name and Norm was the "Farmer."

Because their daughter Starla is a seven-year cancer survivor and Shirley's mother succumbed to cancer, Norm and Shirley decided to donate all monies from their car shows to The Fitzpatrick Cancer Center at CVPH in Plattsburgh. The October 6th show raised \$3,800.00 by a traditional entry fee of \$10.00, sale of donated hot dogs, Michigans and soda and a Chinese Auction of 46 or 47 donated items. The 50/50 tickets sold 50 tickets for \$20.00 which netted a \$1000.00 prize won by Chip Perry, Jr. who immediately donated it back. The Fitzpatrick Cancer Center should be very happy to know that the Monettes plan to continue this wonderful "hobby" for as long as they possibly can.

BOUQUET VALLEY ARTIST STUDIO TOUR

The Second Annual Boquet Valley Artist Studio Tour was held last week-end, a rather soggy weekend for the event and particularly for Port Henry as most of our art is public art, the whole village is a studio, an outside studio. Below is a list of our art and where it may be found. When the rain and the gloom stops and we are back to lovely Fall days, take an hour or so, do a "walk-about" and enjoy Port Henry's public art: historic sign restorations, murals, a garden of tropical flowers scattered over a wall and now, in October, the annual visit from the Funky Folk, those wonderful wooden folk all dressed up and all over the village, waving a welcome and making many a visitor (villagers too) do a double-take.

1. Village Park

Port Henry's downtown park is a hub for village activities. To the left of the Information Booth, there is a large mural depicting the grand Witherbee-Sherman Company headquarters that is now the Town Hall. To the right of the Booth, a new re-do of the Port Henry history sign, listing important dates, is ready for installation as soon as it quits raining. Currently, the park is hosting some of the "Funky Folk."

2. Church Garden Mural

Just behind the Mt. Moriah Presbyterian Church you will discover a small piece of the Tropics. Painted in the summer of 2012, this mural is a jungle of exotic plants and animals including primeval grasses, a ladybug, and a very bright flamingo. Try counting how many different colors were used in this mural.

3. Sherman Free Library

Port Henry has one of the most beautiful libraries in Upstate New York, a work of art itself. Step inside, be a part of this stone art and experience the immense vaulted ceiling that recalls the hull of an old wooden boat. Then enjoy the art within this work of building art, paintings of Crown Point, prominent citizens, a marble statue of a young girl, and a fascinating bird's eye view of Port Henry showing many buildings and houses that still stand today.

4. Flower Paintings in the Lee House

Inside the lobby of this former elegant hotel, you will find a collection of square paintings by local artists—each depicting a flower with an individual style.

5. Bragg Brothers Vintage Sign

Port Henry artists recently restored this old "ghost sign" (dating back to around the 1930's) for the Bragg Brothers appliance store. Note the wonderful "GE" logo and the art deco style lettering.

6. Foote's Port Henry Diner

An artwork in itself, Port Henry's Diner is one of the oldest in the country and one of the few with wheels. Local residents recently helped with the historic research into colors and the painting of the exterior. After you have enjoyed the Dining Car's outer artistic qualities, stop in for breakfast or lunch and enjoy its "inner" arts.

7. Johnny Podres Entry Sign

Located on the south entry to Port Henry with a lovely lake view, this new sign honors Johnny Podres who was born in 1932 and grew up in Witherbee where he learned to play baseball. He was a left-handed pitcher with the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers. He is best remembered for being named the Most Valuable Player of the 1955 World Series when he pitched a shutout in Game #7 against the New York Yankees.

8. Farmer's Market Sign

Every summer, Port Henry hosts a Farmer's Market which this sign advertises. On a small white building as you come into Port Henry from the south and just before a Citgo gas station, look for the bright yellow Farmer's Market sign with a bright red strawberry, a very yellow corn cob, and a bright red tomato to balance the strawberry.

9. Johnny Podres Mural

Located on the former Wheelock's Chevrolet building, this panoramic mural depicts Port Henry's lakeside location, railroad history and grand architecture. On the left, the famed pitcher and native son, Johnny Podres throws a ball that seems to come right at you. On the right, an engine with a cow catcher chugs along as a miner shines his headlamp on a truck filled with iron ore.

10. Historic Street Scene Murals

Placed into the front windows of the former Belden-Edwards Ford Garage, these two grey-scale murals recreate historic photos of downtown Port Henry. The painting on the left shows Main Street (looking north) circa 1910. The painting on the right shows the elegant old bandstand and fountain that was once at the center of town.

11. Iron Center Interpretive Museum

Again, a piece of art itself, the carriage house of the former Witherbee-Sherman headquarters, is an exceptional museum which tells the story of Moriah and Port Henry's iron mining history. There are historic artifacts inside and out along with a stunning walk-around model and diorama explaining how the mines operated.

12. Downtown Fountain

Port Henry's artistic talents include stone masonry. Recently, local citizens volunteered to rebuild the traffic oval where, historically, the downtown bandstand had been located. With superb detail, this new oval "garden" includes fine stonework and a small lion's head fountain recalling the original lion's head on the old bandstand.

13. Directional Sign to the World

Located at the entry to Port Henry's Village Beach, this colorful, whimsical signpost sports homemade arrows pointing to places around the world and close by. Made of found wood and driftwood from the lakeshore, the sign may not be the best help in getting you to where you may want to go, but it is a fun read.

14. Mountains of History Banners by Local Children

On the north and south entries to downtown Port Henry, there are twelve charming banners with paintings of historic sites and stories chosen by local children. They include everything from iron mining to baseball to maritime history. The stories of each banner can be found at---

www.porthenrymoriah.com

15. Panels of Windows

Just completed and beautifying the Catch Penny building are four panels, each depicting a tall window with blue shutters and a window box filled with grasses and many geraniums.

JUST FOR SENIORS AND FUTURE SENIORS

There's babyhood, childhood, teenage, which is now has a subdivision of pre-teen before teen, young adult, adult, early middle age, middle age, late middle age, then senior. Seniors are a rather lumped together group: anyone who suspects they have passed late middle age but has no arthritis, those having arthritis but refusing to consider themselves old, then those who find being old comfortable, less demanding, allowing them time to fill as they wish. There's no specific age denoting "old age", each person just knows when they have arrived there from the symptoms. The first symptom is sudden pride in the age at which they have had the acumen to arrive; a to-hell attitude about having to use a cane, a desire to be 'smart ass' and shock people, which is quickly followed by an

indulgence in same and a differing attitude towards food, it will become either rather unimportant or acquire an obsessive singularity for them.

You settle into this space called “old age” because the choice of where else to go is rather limited. You can choose to either moan and groan about the changes and strictures or you can decide to have fun. Fun is definitely the way to go. You can be sure each day will be filled with fun if you follow a few simple rules: surprise someone by gifting them with something of yours they have admired. This has two benefits, you make someone happy and you will have one less item to harass those you leave behind. As suggested before, allow yourself to shock someone in some way (using an unexpected “naughty” word is really the simplest, but be inventive, tailor the shock to shockee); smile at every passing person, particularly those you don’t know. It really throws them off balance. For the rest of the day they will feel slightly guilty as they ponder the problem of where they met you and who you might be. Always keep your hair neat and well groomed as it allows you to give the appearance that you care about the way you look while you slouch around in comfortable old clothes. Stop as many times as something draws your attention and enter into that moment: a view that will never be exactly the same; something you’ve never really watched before - a very small spider approaching and killing the much larger prey caught in its web; its unhurriedly winding strong filament by strong filament around and around this future food as it struggles and struggles. Then there are the smells. Smell, that most evocative of our senses, which can draw you back in time to a memory otherwise forgotten, or create future memories to be treasured for all the moments, seconds, minutes, hours, days, or years with which you may be gifted to fill. Acknowledge this gift with love and laughter. Fun is the very best way to create memories and spend this treasure, this precious gift of unexpected time, *old age*.

Look for the next issue of the Fact Finder on Saturday, October 27th at Adirondack Hair Associates, Macs and Moriah Pharmacy; also you may find copies to read at the Sherman Free Library.