

THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Surrounding Area
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Bernadette and Tom Trow, Sue McHone, Josie and Paul Tom**

Fact Finder enjoys celebrating holidays with its front page illustrations, but as Fact Finder is on a bi-weekly delivery schedule, sometimes Fact Finder's celebratory front page is more than a bit out of sync with the holiday it wishes to honor. This has been so recently. The January 24th issue gave a late nod to our beginning year and a forward wish for the coming Valentine's Day; so that this issue could acknowledge the February 16th President's Day.

When I was growing up we celebrated both George Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays on the days of their births and, if I remember correctly, we school children had a holiday on each day! The change came in 1971 when the Uniform Monday Holiday Act was passed in an attempt to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers (I wonder if anyone has done research to see if over, say, twenty years, there has been any real benefit in this lumping together of days off.) I remember that it was wonderful to look forward to that one day off, that treasure of time, during the week and then that bonanza of a three-day weekend once ever so often. It happened more often than you might think, because if the holiday fell on a weekend you got Friday or Monday off. At first it annoyed me that they had thrown Washington and Lincoln into the general pot of presidents, but finally I decided it wasn't such a bad idea, by honoring all presidents you were really more honoring the Office of President and that, definitely, should be respected and honored. It is an awesome responsibility and has become more so with the passing of time. I am sure that each man who has held this office has tried to do the best his capabilities would allow of him. Let us celebrate this coming President's Day with sympathy for the office holder and respect for the office itself.

A NEW DELIGHT IN MINEVILLE

Two weeks ago, Kelly Ann King and I went to the opening of the "**Baker'y**" in Mineville. Although the bakery itself was open (as it will be in the future) at 8 am, the official opening was from 10 am-2 pm. Kelly and I arrived at a "fashionable" 1:15 pm with plenty of time before closing. They were *sold out!* in fact, they had been sold out for over an hour. They did have some wee "taster" cup cakes, which we did taste and, oh my, they were so-sooo good! Unfortunately, this editor is gluten intolerant and could have had just a taste anyway. Also this handicap and the deliciousness of that first taste has kept me from returning; I am not a masochist! However, I have heard that people began asking Laura to make doughnuts and my understanding is that she plans to make Wednesday's and Sunday's the Doughnut Days. When I feel strong enough to brave the temptations I will make another visit to the Baker'y.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

I'd like to take this opportunity to let everyone know I am running for re-election as Mayor of the Village of Port Henry. If elected, this will be my 4th term. I ask for, and would greatly appreciate, your vote on March 18, 2015.

I'd like to take the time to thank the members of the Board: Matt Brassard, Ruth McDonough, Staley Rich and Tom McDonald, who have helped make so many good things happen over the past few years. It is truly the best team I have ever been on.

I would also like to thank the following organizations and individuals: the pH7 committee, who

have worked to make many of my dreams come true; volunteers like Patsy Salerno, who donated so much of his time building the traffic circle and Tom Scozzafava for all the electrical work he has done that lit up the traffic circle and park in time for Christmas. I must also extend my deepest gratitude to the entire Village Crew: Denise and Paula, Chip, Pete, John, Digger, Jimmy and Donny. You all are so dedicated and I appreciate that so much. And finally, a very special thank you to our volunteer Port Henry Fire Department, its Chief and to each and every member that gives so much of their time and dedication to our community.

Here's a reminder of just a few things our team has been able to accomplish in the past few years:

- The beach and campsite have been restored through reimbursement funds from FEMA and I have to say, our beach is one of the nicest on Lake Champlain!
- We have also secured grants for projects on Main Street, Elizabeth Street and Man Hole 13.
- We are currently working on obtaining grants for public parking, zoning and updating the water and sewer lines on Rice Street.

I do work outside of the Village, Monday – Thursday, but I can be easily contacted by calling the Village office at [\(518\)546-9933](tel:5185469933) and leaving a message, or via email; villageofporthenry@nycap.rr.com.

As of last January 2014, I have been working in the Village 3 days a week on Friday, Saturday and Sunday's. Weekends have always been my physical workdays in the village.

At present, there are several things we are working on to improve the Village and to help with taxes. Our Village Board meetings are where we discuss and work on the needs of the village. We would like to see a lot of people at these meetings as everyone's support is needed and appreciated.

Thank you!

Your Mayor; Ernie

Editor's Note: *As other residents announce their bid for mayor, Fact Finder will invite them to write an article stating what they, if elected, would like to see accomplished for the village during their tenure of office. As the Fact Finder is issued only every two weeks, there will be extra notices printed to accommodate the necessities of time and fairness and would be distributed to the usual Fact Finder venues.*

TOWN OF MORIAH BOARD MEETING JANUARY 8, 2015

Yes, these are notes from the **January 8th** Town Board Meeting. Fact Finder's reporter couldn't get to the meeting because of the weather and has just been able to get the minutes to report to those readers who do not have internet or would rather read the old-fashioned way.

Mrs. Carpenter announced the unveiling of the Angle of Hope on Christmas Eve and that it is open to the public to see; the dedication will be in the Spring.

The Board, at the request of Water & Sewer Superintendant Art Morgan, approved the purchases of a Turbidity Tester and a pump for the sewer pump station. Mr. Morgan also reported that there had been a couple of water breaks in the main line with the old asbestos pipe and that the whole line is so old that it really needs to be replaced. Mr. Scozzafava said that they were working with AES to get grants for this project and a sewer line in the Witherbee area.

Mr. LaPier, Building Codes Officer had good news to report for 2014. He issued 47 building permits of which **five** were for **new homes**. New homes are always such good news for our area. He also issued permits for **three additions**, 11 garages and storage sheds, one pool and other miscellaneous improvements. Mr. LaPier continued, discussing that NYS Building Codes now require that new construction with trusses made from "engineered wood" must have an insignia on their dwellings to protect firemen in case of a fire. Owners are responsible for obtaining and installing these

insignias. Fact Finder didn't know what "engineered wood" was so we went to Wikipedia: "**Engineered wood**, also called **composite wood**, **man-made wood**, or **manufactured board**; includes a range of derivative [wood](#) products which are manufactured by binding or fixing the strands, particles, [fibers](#), or [veneers](#) or boards of wood, together with [adhesives](#), or other methods of fixation^[1] to form [composite materials](#). These products are [engineered](#) to precise design specifications which are tested to meet national or international standards. Engineered wood products are used in a variety of applications, from home construction to commercial buildings to industrial products. The products can be used for joists and beams that replace steel in many building projects. Typically, engineered wood products are made from the same [hardwoods](#) and [softwoods](#) used to manufacture [lumber](#)." So now I know what "engineered wood" is, but I wondered why the use of it must be noted and why, particularly, for the fire department's benefit? As with most things in our world, there can be an upside to bad things and there usually is a down-side to really good things, as we read below.

Answer: "Engineered wood products also have some disadvantages:

Some products may burn more quickly than solid lumber.

They require more primary energy for their manufacture than solid lumber.

The [adhesives](#) used in some products may be toxic. A concern with some resins is the release of formaldehyde in the finished product.

Cutting and otherwise working with some products can expose workers to toxic compounds.

Some engineered wood products, such as those specified for interior use, may be weaker and more prone to [humidity](#)-induced warping than equivalent solid woods. Most particle and fiber-based boards are not appropriate for outdoor use because they readily soak up water."

Mr. Scozzafava stated that there is a program available, based on income, for people whose septic system fails. Information is available at the Town Hall, visit or call [518-546-3341](tel:518-546-3341).

At the suggestion of Councilman Salerno, the Town Board approved raising the 2015 Campsite seasonal rates as follows: Lake Front - \$1,900; Non-Lake Front - \$1,539, Preferred - \$1,625. All seasonal fees must be paid by June 1st, there will be no exceptions. Daily rates will remain the same.

FROM OUR SCHOOL

World War 3

by Ray Bryant

The 20th century was a century of many important events. Two world wars took place, new superpowers emerged, and two nations began a war that could've ended the world. The events of the 20th century still ring loud and clear today and are going to have a great influence on many decades to come. Unfortunately, history may be repeating itself.

If you watch the news, you are aware of the latest headlines. One of the most important, being the invasion of Crimea. Even though taking such a small section of land may seem insignificant, it may be setting the stage for a larger act, with the U.S. and Russia being the main players. How can something like this set a spark that starts a forest fire? A look at history will give us an answer.

Lessons From History

In 1938 Hitler annexed Austria and Czechoslovakia while the whole world stood and watched. Later he invaded Poland and met no opposition from the rest of the world. From there Hitler started to take the rest of Europe, went into Africa and had plans for world domination. Nobody tried to suppress his conquests until it went out of control and, as a result, millions died. France and most of Europe was taken, whole cities burned to the ground. If we analyze these events, we can see a similarity in what is happening today. Hitler's main reason for annexation of Austria and Czechoslovakia was to unite all German speaking people, or people who had close connections to Germany. Many of these countries had ties to Germany prior to WW2, like Austria, who was an ally with Germany in WW1. We see a similar scenario in Crimea and the surrounding areas. Ukraine was a former Soviet state and Putin has

said that he would rebuild the former Soviet Union, doing similar things as Hitler did in WW2. The other similarity is how everyone is standing-by. The only one to step in has been the U.S. with economic sanctions. This is giving Russia the mentality that they can take whatever they want without being challenged. So why is it a problem if the USSR is restored?

Some of the former Soviet States are part of NATO, an organization of nations that have sworn to defend each other if under attack. This means the United States, which is one of NATO's most important members, would have to defend countries being attacked by Russia. For example, if Estonia was invaded, all NATO members would have to step in. This creates a situation similar to WW1, where everyone had ties and was dragged into the war. This turns the conflict into a mass conflict of many nations, including several superpowers.

Aside from Russia's desire to take back the former Soviet States, there is another conflict fueling the fire. It has been discovered that there are rich oil reserves in the Arctic Ocean. It is also possible to establish trade routes to the Arctic, but these are of interest only now because record polar ice melts have opened them up. Dividing the Arctic is a complicated process. Each country gets claims based on what continental shelf the country rests on; but, of course, everybody wants more for themselves. Currently the scramble for the Arctic is mainly among Russia, United States (Alaska), Iceland, Canada and Denmark (Greenland). Currently, there are several areas of dispute in the claims where they overlap and the biggest problem is there is no referee, so everyone is going to try to cut a bigger piece of the cake.

Another hot zone is the East China Sea conflict involving allies of the United States as well. It is a dispute over a group of islands that also contain recently discovered oil reserves and they happen to be very close to two important nations. The Senkaku Islands, as they are called by the Japanese and the Diaoyu by the Chinese. These islands are between Taiwan and the Japanese island of Okinawa. The situation has escalated since a Chinese fishing boat rammed a Japanese coast guard vessel and the Chinese captain was arrested. This led to sanctions against Japan of important raw materials like rare earth metals. Japan has changed its constitution so it now allows them to build a military capable of offensive maneuvers, an action that was banned after WW2 to prevent further wars. Since the United States is an ally of the Japanese, the U.S. might have to step in. Does this situation sound familiar? It does. We are seeing a scenario shockingly similar to WW2's Pacific Theater; a war between China and Japan with Americans getting involved after a direct threat.

The Spark

The thing that all of these events have in common is that they are creating tensions between America and its allies and two superpowers. There are also oil and nationalistic related disputes. Another important detail is that all of these events have played out before and ended badly. They are even in similar parts of the world with seemingly similar motives behind each.

Based on the situations playing out, we can tell who is friend or foe. Russia is openly anti-American and has taunted the U.S. in recent maneuvers such as close warplane bypasses. The Chinese are attempting to build up an army capable of taking the Americans and are trying to push out American influence in the China Sea. The Chinese have also taunted the U.S. with the incident of a Chinese warplane doing circles dangerously close around an American aircraft. On the other side, we have ourselves the U.S., NATO nations and other various allies such as Japan.

Now the question is what would set the spark to get the fire going. Mainly the world's depleting oil sources. The United States relies on cheap oil for its economy and currently gains much of it from reserves in North Dakota and by newly developed methods such as extracting shale oil and fracking. U.S. has a great dependency on oil as oil supports much of its economy. Russia also depends greatly on oil and natural gas, as it is Russia's main export and without it, Russia's fragile economy could completely collapse. China is the world's second largest consumer of oil and growing in this area. Once the world's supplies diminish there will be a scramble for whatever is left and that would be in the Arctic. You combine an oil shortage with hostile relations and large alliances, you get a very

large scale conflict and history has proved this. Current tensions will only add gas to the fire and drive countries into war.

How It Could Unfold

Vladimir Putin makes the first move. Putin decides to invade the rest of Ukraine and begins a large military campaign in Eastern Europe. His goal is to take back the Soviet States and keep himself in power. According to Tim Bryant, who lived and conducted business in Russia for 14 years, "It is their country." By invading other countries that were former Soviet States, he is spiking nationalism. Russians are **not** against the war for a multitude of reasons. Russians, in fact, miss the Soviet Union because they felt it was a time of great achievement. After the collapse, they felt they lost all the great things the Soviet Union stood for: the unity, scientific advances and military power. The Russian people were very depressed after the collapse. They even desired the Soviet Union more than their rights, because Russians generally desire security. "A Russian would say, 'I'm glad I have freedom of speech but I am hungry.'" Now that Putin is attempting to reinstate the Soviet Union, Russians are giving him full-fledged support. Russians aren't against waging conflicts as long as they are going to mean something to Russia. Taking back Soviet States would be directly restoring past pride. Aside from restoring Russia's past pride, it is going to make Russia important, people will again have to consider Russia more before making decisions. This suggests that Russia would also support a war in the Arctic for three reasons: one, it is close to home and involves Russia directly; two, oil discovered there will build and strengthen Russia's economy; three, it would be a chance to show up the United States and glorify the military power of Russia. Another thing to take into consideration is that Russians never want to admit they are wrong. It is likely that once they are waist deep in conflict, they will not pull out. "Russians will starve, suffer and die before giving in." There is a great deal of perseverance and spirit that is hard to break, which would make it difficult to defeat such a war-hardy nation.

"Russians will starve, suffer and die before giving in."

After Putin begins his campaign to restore the Soviet Union, it's apparent that in order to do this he will have to invade a NATO nation. Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia are current post Soviet States that are part of NATO. During the Bush administration there was a push to get former Soviet States to join NATO, such as Ukraine and Georgia, but it was decided that NATO was not ready to step in if Ukraine or Georgia were invaded. As a result Georgia was invaded and its allies. The U.S. is now forced to once again fight a war on two fronts.

Russia invades a NATO nation. The NATO countries mobilize armies to send to fight. At first the involvement is mostly sanctions and supplying trains to NATO nations under attack, but as the war escalates, ground forces are moved in. America and its allies are fighting head to head with the Russian military. Russia has already taken many of the Soviet States back and is going forward strong to take the rest. However, Russia is encountering problems as oil supplies in the world are depleted and Russia's economy is suffering from sanctions. Russia needs more oil and begins operations in the Arctic. Drillers have already been dispatched and the navy is deployed to protect these interests. The United States knows Russia can only last so long without oil and sends warships into the Arctic to disrupt Russian operations. The United States is joined by Canada, Denmark and Norway.

America is now fighting a war on three fronts. Over thirty countries are involved in the war. China has decided that it will engulf nearby nations and has formed an alliance with North Korea. Intense fighting erupts in the China Sea, the Arctic and Eastern Europe.

The Possible Conclusion

Half a decade of fighting passes. America's pressure on Russia's oil supply completely collapses the Russian economy. Due to lack of resources Russia begins to lose steam and conditions at home are worsening. The Russian quality of life drops by a dozen measures and instability forms within. Russian forces start to fall by being overwhelmed by a larger army and forced to retreat from conquered territories. NATO forces begin pushing the Russian back into the Motherland. A final

defensive is set up and Russia declares it will fight to the last man. NATO, not wanting to lose many more lives, comes to a decision to set up a defensive front and let Russia collapse from within. Russia is by no means capable of launching an offensive and a stalemate occurs. This redirects Russian attention to problems at home. Russians demand new leadership and a revolution is started pledging peace, prosperity and equality. Putin is arrested and a new government is instituted. The new president agrees to a peace treaty with NATO and invaded nations. The war is over in Europe. The United States keeps half of Russia's Arctic claims.

America, along with the support of its allies, continues to wage war in the Pacific. The United States begins a *Made in America* campaign and all foreign companies pull out of China. The United States stops all business with China and the Chinese economy runs cold. A full offensive is launched on the Chinese mainland by America and Japan. After much fighting both the Japanese and Chinese navies were destroyed and major cities are taken. China begins to lack the economy and military numbers to continue the fight and the capitol is taken. China surrenders. **WORLD WAR 3 IS OVER.**

The editor is very pleased to have been able to print the above article. In it I discovered information I had not known before and plenty of food for future thought.

Look for the next issue on **Saturday, February 21, 2015** at Mac's, Moriah Pharmacy, Sherman Free Library, George's Restaurant, John Eisenberg's Service Center, Ken and Paula LaDeau's Champlain's Best Wash, Don Foote's "Miss Port Henry" Diner, and TFCU. NOTE: The Fact Finder may also be found on-line at porthenrymoriah.com. "Fact Finder" is the first item on the third drop-down menu.