

# **THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER**

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Surrounding Area  
vol. 5, issue #16 April 18, 2015

**This issue has been made possible by the generous support of the following:  
International Paper of Ticonderoga, Moriah Pharmacy and Boyea's Lakeside**

## **REPORT ON ROOST MEETING**

reported by Jackie Viestenz

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, two members of the pH7 attended an area meeting in Ti of the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism. Each community was asked to submit specific goals for their area. The Ticonderoga Chamber of Commerce has set goals of 125-200 new hotel/motel rooms, 125-150 new restaurant seats, 3-5 new attractions and 10 new retail/service businesses.

The Town of Ticonderoga and Fort Ticonderoga are working together to make it easier for tourists to visit each locale, under consideration is a jitney service between the two.

Fort Ticonderoga has purchased the Carillon Cruise boat and will be offering tours this summer. In the planning stages, the raising of \$42 million to construct, among other projects, a Gateway Experience that would be a year-round facility for learning about the history of the area. They are also seeking funding to restore The Pavilion, which is located near the King's Garden. It was built as the home of William Pell in 1826. From 1840-1900, it was used as a hotel for visitors who traveled by steamboat on Lake Champlain. From 1950-1987, it was the home of John Pell. The plan for the building is to use it as a meeting venue, for dining and limited lodging.

Each community was asked to write a one page narrative to describe how they would use funding that would increase tourism and were asked to identify what the "game changing" project would be.

Port Henry put forth the following possible goals to be reached in the next two or three years: 1) 15 additional (new or remodeled) modern rooms for overnight lodging, probably seasonal at first with the ultimate goal to be year around; 2) at least three new retail businesses in the core Port Henry downtown area; 3) one or more additional restaurants, cafes, lounges or other eateries, so that visitors could find three meals a day, seven days a week; 4) an improved walkway/bike path to downtown or a shuttle service that loops between Port Henry, the campgrounds, marinas, downtown and businesses in Moriah Corners, Moriah Center and Mineville.

Editor's interjection: The above goals *are* doable for Port Henry - IF – all residents have a feeling of pride in our village, and show it by contributing something of themselves to its progress. It doesn't have to be a lot, volunteer an hour a week somewhere it is needed, go to Board meetings just once a month, keep your own property in as good repair as you can afford and a debris-free yard. We want people to stop, spend money in our village, look around and want to come back to buy a home, maybe to set-up a business. They are less likely to do this if the first general impression is here is a place of wonderful natural beauty but – do the residents really appreciate what they have? One other observation, this really works only if everyone pitches-in, not just a few. This is not a scold but an invitation to enjoy looking around and be able to say, "I helped make our community to be this great."

## NOTES FROM THE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

April 13<sup>th</sup>, before the monthly Board meeting, the Annual Organizational meeting of the Board was held. Oaths of office were filed as a result of the March 18, 2015 Village Election as follows:

Ernest Guerin as Village Mayor for his fourth consecutive two-year term.

Matthew Brassard as Village Trustee for a third consecutive two-year term.

Staley Rich as Village Trustee for a third consecutive two-year term.

Mayor Guerin made the following appointments:

Denise Daly as the Village Clerk and Registrar of Vital Statistics for a two year term.

Paula Monette as the Village Treasurer and Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics for a two-year term.

Trustee Matthew Brassard as Deputy Mayor for one year.

Bill Ball as temporary Code Enforcement Officer at the rate of \$15.00 per hour until the position is filled by a permanent appointment.

Christopher Wolf as the Health Officer for the Village of Port Henry, with Dr. Richard McKeever as a back up.

Trustee Ruth McDonough as the Safety Officer for one year.

Betty LaMoria as the Village Historian.

Art Brassard as the Bingo Inspector at a rate of \$3.00 per game.

The following Board Members were appointed as liaisons:

Trustee Brassard – Campground and DPW

Trustee McDonald – Fire Department and Water

Trustee McDonough - Administration and Finance

The Press Republican and Times of Ti were designated as the official newspapers of the Village of Port Henry.

Fire Chief Jim Hughes brought up, for discussion, the on-going potential dangers of having a rail line transporting train after train of hazardous materials, each train consisting of tanker after tanker after tanker of hazardous materials. Port Henry's Fire Department is responsible for eight miles along the tracks and must study where to obtain enough needed water, other than the lake, as it might be inaccessible at the point where it would be needed.

Water meter reading is in process. If the guys from the DPW come to your door to read your water meter, please, let them in. It saves everyone time and trouble if meters can be read the first time around.

It was stated that a Property Maintenance Complaint Form was received with regard to the property located at 11 Henry St. This set off a long discussion on property maintenance. There was seeming agreement among those attending the meeting that each property owner owed it to fellow property owners to maintain his property free of visible garbage, junk and clutter for the reasons just mentioned above in the "Editor's interjection;" as the law tends to protect a person's right to live free of interference on his own property. This pretty much tosses the responsibility of how a community presents itself to the outside world heavily on each and every community property owner and, of course, absentee landlords (somewhat of a problem in Port Henry). Maybe, if you are financially or physically unable to maintain your property as you would like, there are agencies, organizations or you own neighbors who would welcome the chance to help you and our community.

A comprehensive plan for zoning is moving forward positively, as \$24,000. has been awarded the village for this purpose and a company, interested in and knowledgeable of the needs of small rural communities, has been found to create the most effective, least intrusive plan for Port Henry.

It was suggested that Port Henry have a Clean-up Day. This seems a particularly apt proposal.

Spring Street water problems and solutions were discussed, with plans to be addressed soon.

A resolution was passed to make the amended coverage provided by the State's General Municipal Law and the Volunteer Ambulance Worker's Benefits Law available to Port Henry's

volunteers. This will go into effect June 15, 2015.

### A NIGHT OF HOPES AND DREAMS

as reported by Kelly Valentine

On Saturday, April 11, 2015, four young women participated in the 2016 Distinguished Young Women of Moriah Program at the Moriah Central School Auditorium. They were competing for awards totaling \$2600 in cash and scholarships.

Ashley Maye, daughter of Mark and Debbie Maye, was the recipient of this year's title of 2016 Distinguish Young Woman of Moriah. She gave a vocal presentation of "*The Cups Song*" by Anna Kendrick. She was also the recipient of the following awards: Interview, Fitness and Self Expression. Ashley will be preparing for the New York State Finals which will be held in August at Cohoes High School.

First Runner-Up was Janelle Brassard, daughter of Andy and Danielle Brassard. Janelle performed a Monologue "It Ain't About How Hard You Hit" by Sylvester Stallone. She received the: Scholastic, Talent, Spirit (by peer vote) and Be Your Best Self awards. For the last award she performed a skit with her "little sisters," Zoe Olcott and Kayla Clark.

### DEBT OF GRATITUDE

The last issue of the Fact Finder was missing the last names of two unusually good and very welcomed contributors: Cameron Sleeper who painted the beautiful front page of the paper and Hailey Morgan who wrote an interesting and informative article titled *Crises by ISIS*. Many thanks and please forgive Fact Finder.

### EGGS IN THE LIBRARY

As of Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> our Library has decorated eggs hanging from light fixtures and railings, any place colored ribbons, with their festive eggs attached, could be hung. This was not an idea of how to make further use of beautiful left-over Easter Eggs; these eggs were created just for this purpose, to celebrate with color and written wishes for the future, the return of spring. The egg and the decorating of eggs as a symbol of spring, of new life, has a long, long history. It is not just a Christian symbol for the belief of Christ's overcoming death but a Jewish symbol during Passover with two meanings: one as a fertility symbol of renewal and the other a symbol of mourning for the loss of the two Temples. In fact, the tradition of painting hard-boiled eggs during springtime pre-dates Christianity. In many cultures around the world, the egg is the symbol of new life, fertility and rebirth. For thousands of years, Iranians and others have decorated eggs on nowruz, the Iranian New Year which falls on the spring equinox. Decorated ostrich eggs and representations of ostrich eggs in gold and silver, were commonly placed in graves of the ancient Sumerians and Egyptians as early 5,000 years ago. Ostrich eggs with engraved decoration that are 60,000 years old have been found in Africa. The early Christians in Mesopotamia stained eggs red in memory of the blood of Christ shed at his crucifixion.

Originally the plan for our spring-welcoming eggs was that they were to be hung on the tree outside the Library, but the threat of rain and wind sent everyone indoors. This was truly a serendipitous solution. The Library is a surprise and delight to enter (a cave of pleasure, information and colorful stalactites) and the beauty of this new decor is that it can remain as long as it continues to please.

The installation was the idea of Zelda, from Park Slope, Brooklyn and one of the newest arrivals to join our community, a self-trained artist and healer who is inspired by the beauty of nature and the guiding force of her intuition. That this intuition can be trusted has been proven time and again over the years. Zelda's wearable art and sculpture, made from the roots and trunks of trees, were exhibited in a three-month solo show "*Sticks & Stones*" at the Boathouse in Brooklyn's Prospect Park

and seen by over 8,000 visitors. She co-founded *The Fine Line Actor's Theatre* in Washington, DC, funded in part by the NEA. She acted in many productions and pioneered Fine Line's groundbreaking Women's Prison Project. She was awarded an Arts Management Fellowship to the NEA.

In 2009 she was in residency with a master Tlingit woodcarver Tommy Joseph at the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center in Sitka National Historical Park. In January of 2010 she, as a small business owner, was one of the recipients of the British Airway's Face-of-Opportunity award which gave her the opportunity of free travel to Thailand to meet and study with indigenous artists and local shaman. These are only a few of her accomplishments in the arts. If you cannot put a face to the name, just watch for a large, gentle Great Dane walking a smallish woman with colorfully wrapped hair; this is "Z" with Zelda.

Although Fact Finder was unable to attend the Moriah Hydro Project meeting April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Moriah Central School, the facts we have learned about it seem amazingly fool-proof and highly beneficial to our area. It has been in the planning process for over 20 years, it is a 264 million dollar investment at no cost to the Town, it will provide approximately 200 jobs for the 2 ½ years of construction and then around 15 permanent jobs when it is up and running. Environmentally, the impact seems negligible, the mines are just sitting there filled with water which will be used to create electro-power to be sold to the Northeast Power Pool. This will not help this area's electric bills but it will have a large impact on Town and School taxes. After the license from the Energy Regulatory Agency is received work can begin. No benefits for a good many years more, but when they do arrive, it seems it will be "HUGE!"

Look for the next issue on **Saturday, May 2, 2015** at the usual places.