

THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Surrounding Area
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North Cheever Sailing Club, Fish and Game Club, International Paper at Ticonderoga**

AN INVITATION FROM THE NORTH CHEEVER SAILING CLUB

reported by Paul Reese

The North Cheever Yacht Club has taken a new name. We are now known as the **North Cheever Sailing Club**, as the word "sailing" better describes our activities.

Members gathered this last weekend to uncover boats, paint bottoms and fix riggings, all in anticipation of a new and exciting sailing and racing season. We expect to be putting boats in the water at the Port Henry Marina in the next few weeks, with sailing and racing starting before the middle of the month of May.

The club continues to expand with new members and, thanks to a very generous donation, a seventh boat has been added to our fleet. Sailing enthusiasts and novices are encouraged to contact us and join in our Wednesday evening races and, sometimes weekend races and leisure sailing. We also offer some informal Learn-to-Sail courses. Landlubbers are encouraged to look out over the lake and enjoy seeing the multi-colored spinnakers catching the wind during the Wednesday night races.

We continue to invite people to sail at **no cost**. However, we do ask everyone to help with boat preparation and other tasks during the year. For information, please mail us at: **PHJ24@EarthLink.net**.

HISTORIC SWIMMING HOLE NEEDS HELP

reported by Janet Beebe Denny and Walt Wojewodzc

It was Cheever Hole, Port Henry's natural swimming place many years before the 1950s when it was given to the Fish and Game Club by the then property owner. The Lake Champlain Fish and Game Club incorporated at this time and Walter "Shakes" Wojewodzc, Sr. became the first president and was the president when the pavilion and dam were built. It became a wonderful gathering place for picnics and, until the mid-seventies, drew large crowds to swim, eat barbeque and drink beer. Then they played poker and drank more beer. Sometimes as many as 14 kegs of beer were downed.

Although you have to be a member of the Fish and Game Club to be able to swim in Cheever Hole, the yearly dues of \$10.00 for a single person and \$15.00 for a household make it so affordable that the dues do not cover the expenses of yearly Pavilion maintenance, ground upkeep and \$600.00 for insurance. Their budget must be eked out by coin drops and upkeep being accomplished by devoted volunteer labor.

Fact Finder cannot imagine a better bargain than belonging to the Fish and Game Club. Where else can you swim and picnic and hold family functions for \$15.00 in such a beautiful setting? Monthly meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm at Cheever Hole. Dues for the whole year, until January, 2016 may be paid to any officer: Walt Wojewodzc - President, Janet Beebe Denney - Vice President, Kim Baker Kolodsey - Secretary, Frank Gilbo - Treasurer.

A coin drop, in the Village of Port Henry, will be held on Saturday, June 6th from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. The club will be collecting money to help defray the cost of that yearly insurance and also, to fix the dam. The dam is in desperate need of repair and, hopefully, if enough money is collected, and enough volunteers step up to the plate, work can be done this fall. If the dam is not fixed in the near future, the possibility of losing our local swimming hole could be lost forever. If anyone

would enjoy being a part of keeping our swimming hole and would like to donate their time and/or materials to help out, please contact Walt at 546-7506

SPRING OBERSERVATIONS AROUND PORT HENRY

As Fact Finder's eyes and ears, I have been driving around our village looking for "news." I was amazed at all that is happening. The Port Henry Marina is open with big boats waiting to be put in the water. The blue trimmed white building at the entry to Dock Street is under new ownership, a Port Henry resident, changes are underway for the implementation of new ideas. Boyea's Lakeside is already open on the weekends and the Port Henry Campground will be opening May 8th. CP Rail is busy, busy, busy making the tracks running through Port Henry as safe as possible. I enjoyed the smooth cross-over going to the beach area and gave the men working there a "thumbs-up" sign as I used the results of their work. At the top of Convent Hill on the right, the neat gray house has been sold, also to a Port Henry resident. Across Star Way, Tim Bryant's restoration of what, at one time, was a photography shop is a wonderful addition to the looks of the village. The Fashion Corner, as usual, makes its corner beautiful and eye-catching with its every-week change of dresses in its windows. Last year's new business The Craft Gallery will be a permanent addition to Port Henry's businesses and a new business will find a home in the space adjoining it, because they are housed in a third building which has changed hands this past year and also was bought by a Port Henry resident. Even though there is still much to be done, so much has already been accomplished in restoring the old Witherbee mansion on the corner of Broad and Stone. It looks so grand up there on its hill, gazing out over the lake. Although Fact Finder's very name decries rumor, the following "rumor" is included here because, if true, it fits this article's subject matter. There is a rumor floating around that there may be changes in the future for the old Gilbo's store. Work has begun in earnest on the old National Bell Store (formerly National Army Store) on Main Street. Fact Finder hopes it becomes a restoration rather than a renovation, because of the wonderful old tin ceiling covering the main floor. The ex-Trekkie studio is now so neat and clean on the outside as Rich Sleeper and his son ready the space for the move of their Customizing and Repair Automotive business from Moriah into these larger quarters. A reread of this article made me aware of the repetitious use of the word "old"; but that's what is important for Port Henry, keeping that which is old and like a chrysalis encapsulates our history as we struggle to progress into comfortable prosperity.

NOTES FROM OUR SCHOOL

Schools have always had an unusually important place in my life. My father and one of my uncles were teachers, my husband was a teacher, I was a substitute teacher for many years (that is a whole other story for another time and space) and my younger daughter has been an elementary teacher about fifteen years. Why a prologue for just a little article in a small paper? Because I very angry with what is going on in Albany concerning curriculum and teacher evaluation.

Core Curriculum is a wonderful concept, a grand theory, but is it reality, just one reality? No! It is as many realities as there are schools in New York. Each school's median educational results are basically dictated by the school's locale and the student pool it receives. A school located in the East 60's in Manhattan has a much higher chance of a majority of its students acing the required tests than a school located in Harlem. This has nothing to do with the natural intelligence of either school's students but the pool of random knowledge each student has access to from babyhood on. However, this does not guarantee that the school in Manhattan's 60's will have all eager, brilliant students or that the school in Harlem will produce only poorly educated beings. The curious mind will always find its way to needed, helpful answers and the easy life does not always result in the beneficial use of this freeing circumstance.

This past week I asked Superintendent Bill Larrow for a meeting to discuss my view of Core Curriculum and teacher evaluations with the reality he is experiencing at Moriah Central. I learned that

Core Curriculum was initiated in 2010 and that teachers must teach the students the information which will be covered on the test, teaching- to-the-test as they say, but Mr. Larrow did say student work has improved. Our school is to be congratulated that it has taken a difficult assignment and made it produce results.

It is not that I think goals should not be set and that those goals should not be very high. I worry that curiosity, imagination and self-initiative, the ability to think-outside-the-box, may not be being sacrificed on an altar of quantity of knowledge as opposed to quality of thought. When I voiced these concerns, Mr. Larrow seemed to accept them as valid.

Discussing my understanding and anger at the new Governor-proposed teacher and principal evaluation plan, Mr. Larrow explained that a Board of Regeants will reevaluate the Governor's proposal in June and then will submit this plan in November and if that plan is accepted it will become the "law". Then, if a school does not abide by these rules they could lose State aid, which for Moriah Central is 71% of its budget. Now, doesn't that sound like black-mail? It sure does to me!

Mr. Larrow said one of the problems they had encountered was that the State did not always send the testing information in the time needed for the teacher's to teach the material. These are timed tests which do not really test a student's knowledge, it merely tests the speed with which different students retrieve information. I, many years ago, knew I should never be on *Jeopardy*, my file-search was too slow, on the other hand I probably could have done well on *So You Want To Be A Millionaire*, they gave you four answers from which to chose.

My notes say, "3 yrs. holes in State Curriculum," but I am not sure enough of what I meant to be able to write about it. I realize I must have another interview with Mr. Larrow in the very near future. No, Fact Finder is not copping-out here. This is a big and complicated issue which affects all our children and should be understood by the whole community as well as the parents of attending students.

FACT NOT RUMOR

George's is up and serving again with a hearty "No!" to any rumor other than that Laura had to take a bit of well-deserved personal time away from George's.

VOLUNTEERS! HELLO OUT THERE!

Fact Finder mentioned the need of volunteers for the Fish and Game Club, but there are many, many more places where volunteers are needed in our village, particularly in the summer and fall. Here are up-and-coming needs: The Moriah Chamber of Commerce will be needing volunteers to answer the Chamber phone when Chamber officials are unable to be available. There are many volunteers needed to work on Port Henry's Labor Day parade. Preparations must begin very soon, and no one will be "stuck" with more time than they have agreed on. pH7 welcomes volunteers to help with the planting and care of the many flowers and other plant life that has improved the face our village and states that Port Henry residents care about the home. One of the greatest volunteer efforts anyone can make is attending Village Board meetings. Oh yes, this how you support not only the Board but the whole village. How? You attend for others that cannot make that particular meeting and then you report to them. More and more villagers will be on-the-same-page and where volunteers are needed becomes obvious.

INTERESTING SEEMING FACTS

The internet is even better than the dictionary to squander my time. One interesting subject leads to another and another, then to the realization that you must check many sites, and reputable sites at that, before you feel sure enough of your knowledge to accept it as a fact.

"The FDA has **NO testing procedures** for GMO foods, NONE. The only human study ever published showed that those foreign genes, which are present in GM food, transfer to

the DNA in the bacteria in our digestive systems. We, the American consumer, are the guinea pig (or rat) in this case. Unfortunately, almost all grains, including soybeans, wheat, and corn, have been grown via GMO's."

"Alcohol use is the second leading cause of cancer, right behind tobacco use. While a moderate or low consumption of alcohol can be healthy and leads to a reduced risk of heart disease," Other organs believed to be associated with cancer "caused by excessive drinking are the mouth, esophagus, liver, colon, rectum and female breast cancers." As the article says, "Don't fret! You can still enjoy that glass of wine with dinner, but, for your health's sake, no more than one."

Look for the next issue on **Saturday, May 16, 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.