

THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Surrounding Area

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

According to a 1971 book called "The Sticks," our area is "a massive chunk of New York State known variously as the Adirondacks, the Great Northern Wilderness, the North Country, the Sticks." The North Country and the Adirondacks were the only name I knew when, in 1973, we bought our house in Port Henry and became permanent summer and holiday residents; later, at various times, becoming home to different family members.

Another tidbit of information concerning a name: according to this book there are several possibilities from which the name "Adirondack" evolved. A legend coming out of a war fought between the Algonquins and the Iroquois says the Iroquois victors taunted the Algonquins with "Rat-i-ron-taks," meaning "They who eat the bark of trees," a way of saying "the Algonquins were too weak to kill even game and so had to live on tree bark. The French later heard the phrase as "Adirondacs," and later the British changed it to "Adirondacks." J. N. B. Hewitt of the Smithsonian Institute thinks the word probably originated from an obscure 16th C. Canadian Indian tribe, meaning "They of the great rocks." The Iroquois picked this up, mistranslated it and used it as a taunt. Still another contender for the honor of giving name to our amazingly unique area comes from a 1634 Dutch compilation of Mohawk words, "Aderondacke" meaning "Frenchmen and Englishmen." From wherever its name came, we who live here now are the fortunate inheritors, guardians and custodians of the name and of the land, with all its wonder, beauty and needs.

WHAT'S IN A WORD?

I wonder how many of you noticed the change of wording in the masthead before reading this. "Vicinity" has been replaced by "Surrounding Area." So two words have taken the place of one, "vicinity," "surrounding area;" what is so noteworthy about this? The words do have similar meanings, are often used interchangeably, but the implications, the taste on the tongue, of each is different. Vicinity says closeness while "surrounding area" suggests nearness but not necessarily closeness. The Fact Finder needed to be insular in its beginning to assure Port Henry it was a very unique and marvelous entity and everyone in it contributed to this. Then the need to include all of Moriah Township became undeniable, and now it has become obvious that the whole surrounding area must be included.

Westport's Chamber of Commerce took the first step in publicly recognizing the readiness, need and beneficial potential of area unification by holding a Chamber of Commerce Mixer at the Westport Hotel in December. The turnout was excellent and heartening. Port Henry's Chamber hosted the second Mixer the 21st of this month at King's Inn. Over 50 people attended which underlined the overall awareness and readiness to address the serious problems we face in our Adirondack communities. Many of these problems are problems of the times in which we live, but a great many arise from the simple fact of *where* we live. We live in the Adirondacks, a huge park which has a dichotomy of needs. We need to maintain as much of the glorious nature we possess and yet we need income to just exist. But we want to and *must* go beyond just existing, we must *prosper*, so we can truly enjoy and be able to share the natural wealth surrounding us. By joining together, each small community's uniqueness can

be recognized, preserved and become its way into prosperity.

EXAMPLE OF ABOVE:

A real example of this expression of area unification and therefore necessity for including “surrounding area” coverage, is our Barber-Cooke Insurance Agency on Broad Street. Three years ago they opened a second insurance agency in Ticonderoga, but this fact was not mentioned in the Fact Finder at that time, as Ticonderoga was not presumed as a part of the Port Henry vicinity. Recently, Sharon and Gary decided to acquire Tierney’s Restaurant with lineage going back through the Carillon to the Long Diner. The newly named Sentinel Grille opened January 5th of this year.

It seemed a good family-involvement project as several family members have backgrounds in the food industry, with knowledge in areas which could help address the needs of their newly acquired restaurant. Also, they knew Tierney’s Chef who will be continuing in this position for the Sentinel Grille, whose name honors the Ticonderoga School’s team. The décor also reflects school pride by choice of colors and exhibiting school memorabilia, jerseys, pictures, etc. Sentinel Grille’s website gives not only information concerning menu and serving times but an inside picture expressing the feel of the Grille, a lovely place to enjoy an evening out.

AND YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE:

King’s Corner (a spin-off from King’s Inn’s) at the four corners in Moriah, opened February 1st and has already had to expand. It opened as “Simply Take-Out”, but customer’s began to say they would like a place to take their orders, sit down and eat. Fortunately, there was an empty adjoining space and Michele and Kevin decided to give their customers what they had asked for, a place to sit down and eat. As soon as the light fixtures are in and a few other small items are taken care of, “Simply Take-Out” will mean simply taking your “take-out” through a door into the next room and sit down.

Kevin has always been interested in opening a different type of pizza take-out, offering not only pizza but complete, non-fast-food type meals for take-out at an affordable price. When Fleury’s closed, Kevin and Michele realized here was an opportunity, with ready-made customers used to having close-by food **and** an open space was right across the street so no one would have to get used to a different locale for food. Besides offering meals to take-out, they prepare a variety of unusual pizzas. I am not often surprised by what is put on pizzas, but I did do a double-take when I saw “Mac and Cheese” pizza. **Pasta** and cheese on a pizza?! Michele said it is quite a seller. People, particularly children, love it. Oh well, as the old saying goes “digustibus non est disbutandum,” (rough translation) “there’s no accounting for taste.”

Kings Corner is open seven days a week. M - Th., 11-8:30; F & Sat., 11-9; Sun. 11-8. For further information call (518)546-3151

King’s Inn, Kevin and Michele’s original food effort, continues to offer its expected fine dining experience.

THREE OF PORT HENRY’S NEW BUSINESSES REVISITED

(Fact Finder’s criterion for a “new business” classification is being under a year in operation)

A revisit to one of the newer businesses in town provided useful new information. Ken and Paula LaDeau have been continually upgrading their Champlain Best Wash, a car wash/laundry and now, tanning-while-you-wait facility. Both carwash bays are as close to being new, without *being* new, as possible. This includes replaced change machine and a mat holder; a new little device for hanging up car mats so they can be washed with the high pressure nozzle you use on your car.

A supervised, stand-up tanning stall has been added as a convenience, particularly for those multi-

taskers out there. What better than getting a tan while waiting for that wash to finish? Times for tanning availability are posted at the Wash or may be obtained by calling 366-4109 or emailing

kladeau@champlainbestwash.com. While planning further upgrades, Ken and Paula will continue to concentrate on top-notch maintenance of equipment and home-quality cleanliness for their customers.

Don Foote's (Miss Port Henry) Diner continues to enjoy excellent business, particularly on the weekends, with a large percentage being regulars or frequently returning customers. This says a lot for the consistent quality and recipe imagination of the food served. I, personally, find the soups are unusually inventive and tasty.

A return to Danielle and Andy Brassard's Firefly furniture store brought a nice surprise. A third display room has been opened, giving the store the feeling that you are looking through rooms in a house, and as usual, there is always something new to see. However, the most exciting news is that the Brassard's have begun displaying works of area artists. This is a wonderful idea. The Firefly is decorated with real art and the artists have a home-like setting for their work, which allows potential buyers to more easily envision the art in their own homes. Danielle and Andy are looking forward to Spring and a chance to do a little "artwork" of their own on the outside of the Firefly, giving it a loving "face lift."

RANDOM NOTES

On April 5th, Kelly Valentine's Girl Scout Troop is good-deeding Cathy (Penelope the Clown of the Broken Leg) and Tim Sprague by helping plant flower seedlings in the Cheever Garden Greenhouses. Each girl will be thanked with a flower-to-be in a clay pot to be ready for her mother on Mother's Day.

Tuesday March 19th - VOTING DAY! and **SNOW!** Thirty-two hearty souls braved the snow and deserve medals. Thirteen others deserve most honorable mention for their absentee votes and a special thanks to those intrepid Election Inspectors. Welcome back Ernest Guerin as Mayor and Staley Rich and Matt Brassard as Board Trustees.

Look for the next issue of the Fact Finder on Saturday, April 13th at Adirondack Hair Associates, Macs and Moriah Pharmacy; also, find copies to read at the Sherman Free Library. There are read-while-you-wait copies (but no one will be upset if you leave with one) at John Eisenberg's Service Center, Ken and Paula LaDeau's Champlain Best Wash, Don Foote's "Miss Port Henry" Diner, Danielle and Andy Brassard's Firefly Home Furnishings and TFCU. NOTE: The Fact Finder may also be found on-line at porthenrymoriah.com. Go to "Living Here" and you will see "Fact Finder" to the far right, one line down.