

# **THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER**

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Surrounding Area

## **CONGRATULATIONS!!! TO ALL MORIAH CENTRAL SCHOOL GRADUATES OF 2014**

### VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

On Monday June 9<sup>th</sup>, the Village Board held its monthly meeting, joined by department heads and more than the usual number of village residents. For years Fact finder has been hoping for and requesting more attendance from village people, and not just when there is something to complain about. This shows in actions that there is interest and support for a Board that works full-time hours at their part-time Board job.

**Department of Water/Sewer** reported no breakdowns and no complaints with water quality. The village reservoir will be cleaned in June. The **crew of the DPW** cleaned the terminal dock, worked on the campground, discovering and repairing a seemingly long standing bathroom leak and weed whacked as well as seeing to other maintenance jobs. **The Fire Department** reported 35 calls so far in 2014, three already in June. The department is still waiting for the results of the Assistance to Firefighter's Grant. OSHA training for June will be Boat Safety and Water Rescue Training. This is a much needed compliment to the CP Railway Training which is scheduled for Wednesday June 18<sup>th</sup>. Why is this training so particularly vital to our Fire Department? Answer: the train tracks that service our travel needs provides a corridor for the transporting of tanker after tanker after tanker of ethanol. The chances of a disaster right in our area is not anymore probable than for any other place along these trains' path, but the circumstances of being on the lake does change the problems if the big "if" does occur. Much rescue is expected to come from across the lake from Vermont. Even though the number of trains per day has or will be increasing, fortunately, there is also an increased public and governmental awareness of the potential danger and significant steps are being taken to maintain better tanker and rail maintenance. Already, there has been a slowing of train speed within populated areas.

Those of us at the Board meeting were able to see a positive outcome for a new property owner because of the actions the Board took in his behalf. He bought property at auction and proceeded to demolish a structure as he had been told he could, then upper bureaucracy got in the act, saying "no" it must not be done, a lot of etc. and etc. because the poor man was being told one thing from the "uppers" and our people in charge of overseeing his project were being told something else. Well, as I said before, all is well because of our Board's intercession on his behalf and our new property owner can continue his project with all the proper blessings.

A resident on Spring Street requested assurance that the dangerous pot holes on Spring Street would be filled as had been promised. It was explained that pot-hole repair was on hold until the "tamper" was repaired, but pot-holes would be attended to.

pH7 reported that their May 21<sup>st</sup> "planting day" had been a success and thanked those who had shown up to make it so.

Tim Bryant, president of the Moriah Chamber of Commerce had emailed the Board the schedule and plans for this year's annual Labor Day Festival and spoke further on the subject,

suggesting that a basket ball court could be set up on Church Street for a basketball tournament which had been very successful last year down at the beach. Although last year's two-venued Labor Day Festivities were a success in many ways, it was generally agreed that it would be better to concentrate activities in Port Henry's center. He also said he was looking for alternate venues in case of heavy rain.

The Board approved a request from the Lake Champlain Bible Church to close-off Church Street from College Street to the corner of Church June 24<sup>th</sup> between 5 and 8 pm for a block party. Sounds like the place to be on the afternoon of the 24<sup>th</sup>.

A \$25 donation was received from Karen Pickelle toward the use of the Port Henry beach house May 19<sup>th</sup> for the memorial gathering for Dick Dickson.

### TOWN BOARD NOTES

June 11<sup>th</sup>, just last evening, the Town of Moriah Board held its monthly meeting which was unusually informative and interesting. As guest speaker they had Rod Boula, the CEO of Elizabethtown Community Hospital. He reported on the first year of the hospital's affiliation with the Fletcher-Allen system of shared services. It was an extremely positive report in both the area of medical services and budgetary concerns. It is comforting to realize there is such excellent medical care so close to home. Part of this excellence is available immediately at Elizabethtown Hospital, but as only a very large hospital is equipped to treat more complicated medical needs, when it is felt a patient is in need the services of a larger hospital, they are transported to either Fletcher-Allen or CVPH dependent on their specific need.

The physical aspect of the hospital has been, and will continue to be, up-graded. Old lab equipment has been replaced, along with a new scanner, and plans are in place to convert the 25 bed facility of 22 double rooms and three private rooms into mostly private rooms, as it is felt patients respond better to a private room situation and care can be focused on their needs only.

The Elizabeth Hospital's Emergency Ward received an Award of Excellence which is not easy to come by. The ER must not fall below 95% satisfaction for three consecutive years, if at any time it falls below this 95% bench mark it means begin again (Fact Finder is not sure if this is for the immediate year only or for the three year requirement, but either way it is very difficult to earn this award.) Mr. Boula covered many more facts concerning the hospital itself and the system under which it now functions, but the important meaning of his report is that all of us in its servicing area have much improved medical help very close. Also, impressive is that all of this was accomplished "in-the-black." When asked how this was accomplished, he said that many of the staff are equipped to serve in more than one capacity, which of course means fewer salaries to be covered. Also, being in the new system means the ability to buy needed items at lower cost.

The Highway Department reported the sweeping up after this past winter was harder than in the past ten years. The town employees worked nine days for the County, which is a source of income for the Town. Twenty yards of sand was deposited at the beach. A resident requested help with the road problem on his street which is a dirt road. Not only does the roadway wash away at his corner, there is a metal "something" that becomes exposed and has caused car damage. Also, young people use this road inappropriately, causing the problems to develop more quickly. The head of the department said he tries very hard to keep on top of this problem, but the unnecessary overuse of this road for "fun and games" makes it very difficult. The resident was very understanding and the Board is going to look into the unacceptable use of the road.

The basketball court at Linney Field was finished mostly by donations

Brush Day will be June 28<sup>th</sup> when a chipper will be available. The same rules apply as for the last Brush Day which was successful – clean brush and nothing over 3” in diameter.

A resident asked for help in finding a site for a Little League Baseball field. It was noted that using the existing school fields was not possible as they are in heavy use most of the time. However, everyone agreed to keep looking.

There was the usual report from the Police. The Building Codes officer reported three violations and two requests for trailer applications which were approved by the Board. This led into a discussion about visible “junk” in the township, which is not good for enticing businesses to move into the area and it also affects immediate neighbors’ property value. The Board plans to look into the antiquated code enforcement laws with the understanding that enforcing anything means it must be across-the-board enforcing and no pick-and-choose.

There was an interesting discussion concerning the Transfer Station, which is not set up to make money but it should not lose money. The problem is people with C& D (construction and debris) come from out of area to use our transfer station as it is free. Also, when trash comes in it is accepted by volume or bulk but when the station gets rid of it is considered by weight.

The Board hired 15 young councilors for the Summer Program, which runs from July 7 – August 7. Registration forms for this program can be picked up at the school

#### CAMPGROUND NOTES

Welcome back Marge Seguin as Campground Manager! She was our campground manager for seven years before she took off for Daytona beach, FL three years ago. I, as Fact Finder editor, dropped by this past Sunday for a visit and to ask what Marge thinks of our refurbished campground. She likes the up-grading and thinks it will look even better after a good mow and a few flowers planted about. Maybe some kind flower-elf who reads this will be able to find a few more flowers at the bottom of its basket.

Also to be welcomed are the campers, many of whom have been coming to our campground for many, many years. A big “thank you” is due those patient lake-side campers who could not use their site until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May because the lake was still in possession of their sites. This meant having to set up on an unused site away from the water and then re-setup when the lake finally relinquished ownership of their site.

Marge has a soda machine available for the campers and campfire wood for sale. Please note that there are no life guards on duty Monday or Tuesday so swimming is not allowed on these days. Transient sites are available and should be reserved well ahead for weekends and holidays such as July 4<sup>th</sup>. For campground information and to make reservations call Marge at 546-7123.

#### LIBRARY NOTES

Join in the fun of our library’s **3rd annual Treasures, Trash, and Baubles Sale** to be held Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 am to 2 pm. By donating your good used items, you will not only benefit the Sherman Free Library, you will enjoy seeing how many of your items find a new home and, at the same time, benefit the library.

Official drop-off time for donations will be Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm at the library. For more information call 546-7461.

Items needed: anything for children, household items, sporting goods, furniture, etc., but we are unable to accept any appliances or adult clothing.

## REVIEW

The official Grand Opening of the Made in the Mountain Craft Gallery was totally satisfying. Although the Gallery had been open prior to its official opening June 7<sup>th</sup>, only then could you see just how wonderful it is in its scope of items and talents. People flocked in to look and buy. At least forty people came in on Saturday alone. Exact times at which it will be open will be announced. Such a wonderful addition to our Port Henry businesses!

## NOTES FROM LITERACY VOLUTEERS

*June 24<sup>th</sup> – TABE Training.* The Test for Adult Basic Education (TABE) training will take place on Tuesday June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Lake Placid Beach House and will begin at 9:30AM. This is a GREAT opportunity to (1) learn how to administer this exam and (2) an opportunity to become a volunteer test administrator if you don't have the time to commit to being a volunteer tutor. Our staff is always looking for people to help with other roles than becoming tutors. For more information call 546-3008.

If you are a golfer, and you haven't done so already, you should sign up for our READ the Green Golf Tournament on June 22, 2014 at the Saranac Inn. Prizes from the Crowne Plaza, Whiteface Inn & Club, Malone Golf Club, and more are up for grabs. Call 546-3008 to register.

## NOTES FROM THE FACT FINDER EDITOR

Recently readers may have found that Macs or the Pharmacy has "run out" of copies of the Fact Finder. The explanation is as, seemingly, more and more people read the Fact Finder on line, it has been more and more difficult to know how many copies are needed and yet not waste paper. If you want a copy and can not find one, please call the Chamber of Commerce at 518-250-1050 or drop in when the "Open" flag is out, there will be extra copies there.

Look for the next issue of the Fact Finder on **Saturday, June28, 2014** at its usual hard-copy sites and on-line at [porthenrymoriah.com](http://porthenrymoriah.com), Living Here, then far right one line down.