

THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Surrounding Area
vol. 4, issue #6
November 30, 2013

This issue has been made possible by the generous support of the following:

Carmen De Paoli, Maureen & Jim Finguerra, Judy & Tony Lenza and Sandy & Jack Toback

HAPPY HANUKKAH!

REMINDERS

The Friends of the Sherman Free Library are having a Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 7th from 10 am- 2 pm. The bazaar will be held at the Mount Moriah Presbyterian Church Hall, just across the street from the Library. This is one of those serendipitous occasions where you can have a two-in-one benefit, yourself and our Library. Grab lovely last-minute needed Christmas gifts and in doing so, help your Library.

In case you would like to be a vendor and have not reserved your table (\$10. each) contact Debbie Henry at 546-7477 for a table which might still be available.

Also from the Library: A Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy Hanukkah!

And from our librarian Andrea Anesi – “With the approaching storm, this seems a good time for a reminder – when the weather is inclement, please call ahead (546-7461) to make sure the library is open. We do have a book drop on the porch for returning library materials at times the library is closed. You can also renew your items online, using your library card number here: <http://www.cefls.org/>.

Thanksgiving holiday hours are: Tues. & Wed. 12-4 (depending on the weather); Thurs. Closed; Fri. 12-4 (note earlier closing time) and Sat. 10-2.”

The Moriah Chamber of Commerce will hold its Annual General Meeting Wednesday, December 4th, 6:30-7:30 at its Port Henry office on Main Street (next to the pharmacy), followed by an open-house for members and non-members.

REVIEW OF THE DISTINGUISHED YOUNG WOMEN PROGRAM

Reported by Kellie Valentine

On Saturday November 16th, the Town of Moriah sponsored the Distinguished Young Women program, (formerly known as the Junior Miss) which has not been active since 2006.

Six young women competed for over \$2000. in scholarship money. Over 250 people attended which was felt to be a huge success for a first year’s return of the program.

The winner of the \$1000. scholarship and title of Distinguished Young Woman of 2014 was Alex Lashway and the first runner-up was Taylor Sprague, winning a \$500. scholarship. Chosen by her peers,

Brooke Dever won the Spirit of the Program title and a \$150. scholarship. The remainder of the scholarship money was distributed among the other contestants.

The State program will be held in Albany on January 8, 2014 where Alex will be competing with other area representatives for the State title. Good Luck, Alex!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

In the November 2nd issue Fact Finder had an article introducing one of Port Henry's newest businesses, Julie Garcia's Law Office at 4314 Main Street. I would like to make one correction, fill-in two omissions and include excerpts from an article from the Essex County Republican of October 4, 1888 which concerns the possible use of Julie's office as a law office even then.

First: the paneling is oak not mahogany as was stated. Second: to not even mention Julie's two assistants was not only poor reporting but ignored an important part of a functioning law office. Not unlike a doctor's office, a law office must offer caring and complete competence. The important first impression of this is provided by those who first meet the public, which is usually an assistant. In Julie's office this impression is created by either Lori Swan or Renee McCabe, who seem to know exactly how to accomplish this. Even if you do not need legal services at the moment, drop by, say "Hello." and experience the atmosphere for yourself.

The Essex County Republican – October 4, 1883 – "DEATH OF HON. J. W. SHEEHY,

"Although for some time past (says the Port Henry Herald of the 22d inst,) there has been little hope of his recovery from that dread disease, consumption, the announcement of the sudden death of Hon. James W. Sheehy on Wednesday was a shock to his friends. In the morning he appeared to be as well as usual, and spoke of accompanying his wife on an excursion party to New York, but did not do so. Shortly after the departure of Mrs. Sheehy, he was taken suddenly worse and died about 12 o'clock. Mrs. Sheehy was telegraphed for, the message reaching her at Ticonderoga, and she arrived here on the return trip of the Vermont.....At the age of sixteen, he, together with his four brothers, enlisted and served 3 years in the war. Returning to this place he read law in the office of Waldo & Tobay and after

his admission to the bar, opened an office by himself...At the time of his death he was 38 years and 24 days old." At this printing, Fact Finder is not sure if this was his office space, but until proved otherwise we can enjoy assuming it was.

The Fact Finder often quotes Chris Maron of Champlain Area Trails because the efforts of this group seem to epitomize what life in the Adirondacks means to tourists and particularly its residents.

"As we look forward to the beginning of our FIFTH YEAR, we envision people hiking on a new trail into Whallonsburg during a "hamlet-to-hamlet" hike....a young family standing for the first time on the overlook above Big Hollow in Moriah....an eighth-grade science class learning about river ecology on the Beaver Bend Trail in Westport....new farmers planting heirloom tomatoes on conserved farmland in Willsboro just north of Essex.

As we take a moment to look back, we see Growth! Progress! Success! All because of people like YOU.

Growth! We now protect 493 acres of land with the addition of our second conservation easement and our first land purchase of critical habitat along the Boquet River between Coon Mountain and Split Rock Wild Forest. We're already making new trails there.

Progress! This past year we built five new trails involving over 95 volunteers. We announced winners of our third travel-writing contest and held two photography contests that increased tourism and promoted local businesses. We completed the Outdoor Education Plan and made the

Black Kettle Trail our first self-guided interpretive trail.

Success! We held the first "hamlet-to-hamlet hike" with over 60 people setting out to walk from Wadhams to Essex. One hiker wrote that "The hike was well-organized; the trails were great....What a good way to meet new people from all over."

If you haven't already done so, please invest in the Champlain Valley and in trails that link our communities by making a generous end-of-year donation to Champlain Area Trails.....Thank you for considering this request.....Your generosity creates success!" CATS may be reached at _____

A PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

by Louise Belden and Bernadette Trow

When we arrived in Rome which was actually the second day of our tour, we were told we would be taking a short bus trip until our rooms were ready. Believe us, the word "short" does not mean the same to pilgrimage leaders as it does to the pilgrims. We visited the Trevi Fountain, where a coin tossed over your left shoulder means another visit to Rome. The area was very crowded and we had not yet learned to stay close to each other. We began to learn the value of our Tour Guide Gui holding up a stick with a colorful cloth attached to the end as a reference point for our group. We started as strangers but soon learned to recognize the faces and jackets of those who belonged with us. A necessary goal was not to lose anyone, at least on the first day. The second stop that morning was the Pantheon, a building to honor all the gods of Rome. That took us to the afternoon where we saw the Piazza Navona with the famous Berninni Fountain and Campo de' Fiori, one of the many colorful street markets in Rome.

Part of our pilgrimage each day was a celebration of Mass at a different local church with our two priests as celebrants. It was an honor to be part of this special privilege. This was the end of our day's "short" tour. We could now go to our hotel to rest for a couple of hours before our 7:30 pm dinner. We were advised not to nap in order to avoid jet lag.

The third day of our tour, we were privileged to have tickets to attend a general outside audience held by the Pope. It was a day that brought rain, on and off, for most of the morning. When it was time for the Pope to greet the people, he ignored the light rain and began to move around Saint Peter's Square in a very slow-moving open car. The Pope most often stopped where there were children. He would hold out his arm, touch their cheeks or hug them, to their delight and the delight of the crowd. The Pope returned to the steps of Saint Peter's and gave us what we had been waiting for - his Blessing, a special moment for all of us.

It is hard to describe the size of the crowd and what it was like when we left the square. There were people as far as you could see, in all directions. With some strength and determination we fought to stay on our feet and make our way to our group's meeting place. Once out of the crowd, we had free time in Vatican City, to have lunch, shop for souvenirs or enjoy a gelato.

In the afternoon we saw the Roman Forum and the Colosseum which is spectacular. One can almost hear the noise of the ancient crowd as they cheered for their favorite gladiator. We next visited Saint Peter in Chains featuring Michealangelo's Moses which was just the beginning of our experience with the genius and talent of this sculptor and artist. It was a full day.

On the fourth day of our tour we took a three hour bus trip from Rome to Naples. On the way, we stopped briefly at the Benedictine Abbey and the Sanctuary of Saint Philomena. The bus ride induced many to catch up on their neglected sleep. We gladly went to our hotel with the beautiful view in all directions to wait for dinner and prepare for the following day of more travel.

On the fifth day we left Naples and drove to Pompeii to visit the ruined city dug out from the ashes rained down from the Mount Vesuvius eruption in 79 AD. When they dug out this ancient city, it was surprising how much of it was still in tact. It was a large area with much to see and explore. We continued our journey across the Apennine to San Giovanni Rotondo, the home of Padre Pio who was canonized in 2002 and where he spent most of his life. On the following day we spent time touring the area and visiting the tomb of Padre Pio. We saw a film of his life and his interaction with the crowds of people constantly asking for his blessing or a moment of his time. In the afternoon we left San Giovanni Rotondo which happens to be in the heel of the boot of Italy (if you want to find it on the map) to travel to Lanciano where we stayed the night.

The next morning we went to Cascia to visit the Basilica of Saint Rita and toured her convent. We travelled to Norcia the birth place of Saint Benedict and visited his Basilica. Assisi was next on our travels. We visited the Basilica of Saint Francis where the Saint lies in rest. Assisi is a beautiful place with quaint shops, houses and a special peaceful feeling. Saint Francis, known to be torn between devoting his life to private prayer or teaching the "good news," chose the "good news" but always returned to quiet prayer life when he could.

We must not neglect one of our favorite places, Siena. It is a lovely area with cobblestone roads and alleyways leading to shops, private homes and lovely outside cafes. We found a deli with tables outside and two young ladies behind the counter who were very helpful with our sandwich choices and recommended an excellent white wine. They spoke little English, but it didn't matter. With gestures and smiles on both sides, we managed to order our very nice lunch. While enjoying our lunch, we began to hear something familiar – people speaking American English. We began talking with them and learned they were a group of students, with their teacher, from Rochester on a two week class trip to Italy. After lunch we met our group at the public square Piazza di Campo and watched the children happily running around, grownups lounging or sitting, shop keepers selling souvenirs and everyone just enjoying the day. Fortunately, this was not one of the two days a year on which they hold horse races around the Plaza and which we were told were very competitive and not always on the up-and-up. This was one of our favorite days

Our trip is almost over, we have one more full day visiting Saint Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel with the beautiful frescos by Michelangelo. You want to lie on your back with a magnifying glass and look at every little brush stroke, the colors are so pure. It is difficult to describe and do it justice. We visit four more churches and the Catacombs which are a marvel of design. One could easily get lost in the maze of tunnels.

We ended our stay in Rome with a dinner at a local restaurant where we enjoyed live entertainment and a spontaneous duet (or what seemed spontaneous) between the female singer and one of the patrons who happened to be an Italian Catholic Priest. Even if it had been planned ahead it was fun to watch. One of our fellow travelers Marilyn celebrated her birthday that evening, with everyone in the restaurant singing the traditional Happy Birthday. We were among the lucky ones sitting at her table and had our picture taken with the performers as a souvenir of the night – sometimes it pays to sit at the right table. What a wonderful place to spend a birthday. However, we didn't have a chance to enjoy the afterglow as we were to receive a 3 am wakeup call. At four o'clock we were out of our hotel taking our final bus ride out of the beautiful city of Rome. Arividerci!

EDITORIAL

Most of us realize it's all the wonderful little things in life that give us most joy, but it's also the dumb, day-to-day little things that drive us crazy. Usually it involves products which manufacturers have

changed in order to save money. How about all those favorite receipts that you chose years and years ago when everything could be bought in 16oz., 32oz., 64oz, etc. sizes; now you have to be a high-level mathematician to figure out how many of anything you need to buy to be able to make those old tried-and-true receipts. And then there's candy! In the long ago, there was "penny" candy and nickel bars of Hershey's and Butterfingers, the "good" stuff. Somewhere in the timeline of candy money-saving devices the nickel bar became smaller and the original "nickel" bar size became the large size, of course, at an increase in price. So it went until it was figured out to make candy smaller, sometimes wrap it, bag it and charge more for a bag instead of a bar.

This type of manufacturing thinking extends to practically any product type you can think of. Not too long ago the return envelopes you received with your bills had a covered see-through window, now there is just a hole in the front of the envelope through which the return address printed on the bill can be read.

One of the most mundane, yet annoying, instance of product tampering is being perpetrated by Scott with their TP. The single roll has become practically impossible to begin to unroll. One must first try to find the beginning of the roll and then try to get it unstuck enough to begin a continuous unwinding, without having to shred it with your fingernails. Recently, Scott has put out a smaller roll while trying to convince us that it is thicker and therefore more efficient. Now you must change the roll about three times more often.

A long standing staple of trying to mess with the public mind has been the marking of prices one penny under the round-number cost of the item, \$20. is always \$19.99, and so on. Packaging that is twice or three times the size needed to comfortably contain its enclosed product has been in use for a long time also. This last is a bit puzzling, as it would seem that they could cut cost by having packaging consistent with it product's need. I would call up and complain, but the complaint department's English is difficult to understand.

FACT OR FICTION?

Try these out to find out for yourself. They can't hurt you and if the work you might save some money. BUDWEISER beer conditions the hair. PAM cooking spray will dry finger nail polish. Will also

help sticky bicycle chains, remove paint or grease from you hands! COOL WHIP will condition hair in 15 minutes. ELMER'S GLUE (its made from milk) paint on your face, allow it to dry, peel off and see the dead skin and blackheads (if you have any). BURN YOUR TONGUE? Put sugar on it. PAPER CUT? Try Crazy Glue (often glue is used instead of sutures in hospitals). And last, frequently need and most odd STINKY FEET. Try Jello! Dry or wet or for how long, don't know!! Be a researcher, try these for fun and maybe savings!

Look for the next issue of the Fact Finder on Saturday, December 14th 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'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. Go to "Living Here" and you will see "Fact Finder" to the far right, one line down.