

# THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Surrounding Area  
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**This issue would like to recognize ALL, as a team,  
who helped make our community's 126<sup>th</sup> Labor Day Celebration as *amazing* as it was:  
Sponsors, Moriah's Chamber of Commerce, Port Henry's Fire Department & its Auxiliary  
Vendors, Parade Participants and Announcers**

There is only one problem with this past Labor Day Weekend Celebration - it was so PERFECT it has set a very high bar for future Labor Day Celebrations.

Fact Finder could not be everywhere so we have asked others to report on areas of particular interest to them. Beginning the celebration, on September 5<sup>th</sup>, was a regatta at the Port Henry Marina.

## Regatta Report

by Paul Reese

Saturday, Labor Day weekend, the Port Henry Marina sponsored a sailing regatta. There were two divisions, one for J 24 boats and one for PHRF, which is a handicapped racing system that allows boats of all speeds and levels to compete against each other in the same race. Sadly the winds were quite light but racers were able to complete the race in any case.

The marina sponsored major awards for the winners, including a free slip for the winner of the PHRF race. Other winners received prizes including certificates to local restaurants.

The J 24 boats, racing together as part of the North Cheever Sailing Club, have been competing all summer, including regular Wednesday night races, participating in the Westport Regatta and doing some weekend sailing. The club, with over 60 active members, has been very busy this summer.

The Wednesday before the Labor Day weekend was one of the highlights of the racing season. Winds of 15 to 18 knots (16 to 20 mph) provided an excellent challenge to the racers. Spectators from the shore's edge and high above on the hills of Port Henry could see colorful spinnakers flying up as the racers rounded the marks and headed downwind. In spite of the shorter days, the club was able to complete three full races that evening at record speeds.

## Saturday Continues

Labor Day's Saturday fun continued with fireworks at the Pier. Fact Finder planned to attend or at least look up at the sky for those bursts of color visible above the trees. It didn't happen. The fireworks awoke this reporter/editor out of an unintended snooze. Evidently the fireworks were excellent. Penelope the Clown declared the fireworks to have been "fabulous!" Louise Belden was smitten with the lighted boats scattered over the Lake, their lights' reflections shimmering in the Lake against the lights of the bridge. She mentioned that every time the boats liked a particular display they would blow their horns. There was one 65 year old man who had never been to the fireworks before and thought they were "great!" Possibly, he will repeat the newfound pleasure next year.

## Labor Day Itself

It announced that it was going to be a special day when the sun rose and said "good morning" to an almost cloudless sky. How could we small creatures do less than our very best in so marvelous a day – and we did just that. Jackie Viestenz had seen to it that just the right number and variety of vendors had been assembled and in just the right places, bringing order out of potential chaos. After Cathy/Penelope Sprague was sure that we DID have that huge wonderful flag presiding over the day, after she made sure Fire Departments had been invited to be in the Parade, after the Port Henry Fire Department had

saved the day by assuring her they would see to the chicken BBQ - and after and after and after, she became Penelope the Clown and made balloon animals and painted faces and then rode in the Parade. Ah, the Parade! First the sound of Pipes and Drums before you see them or the color guard which precedes them, then – you see the “sound,” Pipers and Drummers, and you are watching a parade. There was Julia Podres in the Grand Marshall’s car, nodding and waving with 103 years of accumulated charm.

The Parade was such a marvelously balanced parade of Fire Departments, floats, cars and walkers that what was really a long parade seemed short. The end came yet you waited for just one more “something.”

### A Special “Thank You”

All though the help extended by Labor Day’s Sponsors was mentioned at the beginning of this issue, Fact Finder would like to honor them within their gifting level by name:

#### Platinum - \$300+

Port Henry Fire Department (sponsors Police Pipes and Drums, Plattsburgh, NY)

Port Henry Fire Department Auxiliary (sponsors MacBoston Truck/Flag)

Ticonderoga Federal Credit Union (sponsors Penelope the Clown)

#### Gold - \$200+

Glens Falls National Bank

Pre-Tech Precision Machining

#### Silver – 100+

Celotti’s Wine & Spirits

Debbie Henry

Harland Funeral Home

International Paper

Mineville Oil Corp.

Port Henry Marina

Star Way Guest House (Tim Bryant)

Stewart’s Shops (gift certificates valued at \$150)

#### Bronze - \$50+

Decker’s Flats

Gene’s Michigan

Mac’s Village Market

### An Addendum Meeting

The recently held Informational Meeting on Village Dissolution (offered as a service by the Village of Port Henry) attracted so much interest it spawned a Concerned Citizen’s Meeting (what can be called an addendum meeting) held in Margaret Parah’s home. Margaret Parah has shared many points of interest which were discussed among a mixed gathering of “fors” and “againsts” and people who had attended the Informational Meeting and those who had not. Therefore, some of the questions which had been answered at the Informational Meeting were discussed again, not only for those who had not been present at the Village meeting but for those who still wanted more clarification.

Seemingly the most reoccurring subjects were (assuming that the village is dissolved) how will life change for village residents and what happens to the Village assets.

Such questions as (say, since the last dissolution vote) “What improvements have occurred in Mineville, Witherbee, Moriah, Moriah Center and Grover Hills?” Has the quality of life improved in these hamlets? “What exact improvements will the Town provide the village which would be included in the Town tax rate for ALL Moriah?”

It was asked “Would the Firehouse would be moved, would sidewalks be plowed, would streets be less

well cleaned and would garbage and recycle be picked-up?” It was suggested that outside contract services could be obtained at a cost? Also mentioned was that, for homeowners, maintaining sidewalks will increase their liability insurance rates.

“Does a plan exist before and after the vote – will the Town of Moriah receive funds from the State to aid the dissolution process? How will this money be used? Will it pay off outstanding PH debt or will it be available only to Moriah and to be used at their discretion?” “Will Port Henry receive revenue collected through the sale tax or will it become part of Moriah’s revenue? Will Port Henry continue to receive the money from Mountain Lake Services or will Moriah? Will Village real estate taxes increase? What is Moriah Town gaining by the dissolution? Will outside the village area taxes increase?”

Some of the random concerns were, “Does the study being conducted have ample time to do an in-depth study or is it mainly relying on the old study? How is the study being conducted – does Moriah Town and PH Village have equal representation?” Will residents of MLS who can vote be monitored as to prevent any prompting on how they should vote? What will happen to the village employees? Will Moriah maintain Port Henry’s Beach, parks and recreational areas?”

It seems that many of the above questions can be answered by the simply stated facts summed up by the State Rep. who was at the informational meeting that, after finalized dissolution, the Town of Moriah will own all of Port Henry, as it owns Witherbee, Moriah Center, Moriah Corners, Grover Hills. Port Henry will be a fourth of the Town of Moriah’s governance. It will receive its quarter share of the Township’s benefits, hardships and debts while having to pay off whatever Village debts have not been paid off before final dissolution occurs.

The following was Margaret Parah’s opening statement which Fact Finder would like to use as a closing statement. “Without a doubt finding the answer for our vote on dissolution of Port Henry is very emotional, but the aftermath of our decision needs to be addressed regarding issues to be faced by our citizens....We are apprehensive and wish to identify special areas which cannot be swept away by ignoring them until the vote has occurred. In all fairness, we ask an estimate on some issues and answers to others abiding by current State and County laws. We will rely on the Town of Moriah mainly for answers.”

### Special Announcements

For the residents of the Town of Moriah only, there will be town-wide household clean-up days as follows: Friday and Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> for Witherbee, Mineville and Grover Hills; Friday and Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> for Moriah, Moriah Center and Port Henry. Free items for each household: 1 couch, 1 chair, 1 dresser, 1 box spring, 1 mattress, 1 bed, 1 dresser, 1 buffet, 2 tires up to 18”, miscellaneous items at the discretion of the transfer station manager.

Kathryn Lacey's new Air B&B (a three bedroom cottage) had its first guests August 23/23 weekend.

The second Special Informational Meeting on Dissolution will be held September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM at the Knights of Columbus.

Literacy Volunteers is pleased to announce its new Executive Director, Marie Despres, previously Literacy’s Program Coordinator in Lake Placid. Also, although Literacy functions normally during the summer months, it does make special efforts after Labor Day to recruit new students who feel they would benefit from Literacy’s services such as tutoring troublesome subjects, English as a second language, brushing up on reading skills to increase your joy in reading and other areas concerning literacy. For further information contact Literacy Volunteers at 546-3008.

Look for the next issue on **Saturday, September 26, 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.