

THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Surrounding Area

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Ken and Paula LaDeau's *Champlain's Best Wash*, Margaret and Charles Parah

NEWS RECAP

Voting Day has come and gone and votes were cast by **361** voters out of a possible **596**, with **19** votes favoring dissolving the Village of Port Henry. First and foremost the Village or Port Henry residents should be commended on the voting turnout. Over half of the possible voters responded to their call to civil duty. Would the vote have been different if those remaining **235** votes been cast, quite possibly not, but the result would have held no lingering question mark, as it does when there are un-cast votes. Note that until the Dissolution Plan has been voted on, and either passed or not passed, life will continue as usual for both Town and Village residents. The Fact Finder's issue schedule can be unfortunate when it comes to breaking-news, therefore it became necessary to issue an "EXTRA" to solve this problem. For those who may not as yet have read it, a reprint follows:

EXTRA - FACT FINDER - EXTRA

Over five years ago, Fact Finder entered the world a one-page "question mark," an experiment, and in that time this Editor has never felt it truly necessary to put out an "extra" issue.

In the two nights and one day since the vote on dissolution was decided, I have realized many possible facts which caused the need for a second try at dissolution. First and foremost the first effort, obviously, did not solve the problems which had called it forth in the first place. The Village retained its place among the villages of New York State and life for the ordinary residents of both Village and Town continued pretty much the same with both Town and Village Boards trying to serve their people with the best decisions they could make.

The second realization was that each group, pro and con, wanted the same thing for the residents of both municipalities – a better life. So how had the first dissolution effort failed, because it *did* fail and life went on as usual.

This editor wonders what would have happened if the dissolution process had been put in motion at that time. Where would Village and Town be today? Of course, no one knows, no one should even waste time on "what ifting." However, there are two useful questions: why was the "process" of dissolution not begun previously and why has it begun now. The answer to both is the same: there is an almost equal divide between village resident thinking on what is best for village life and growth. That divisiveness will continue until one group convinces the majority of the other group that their way is, provably, the path to the best future for the village.

Now the hard, *really* hard, part begins. This will fall on a committee, the Planning Board Committee. This committee will succeed only if the people on it are willing to risk leaving their comfort zones of not stepping on other people's toes, of keeping their most real thoughts private, of being fearful they may learn something which will change their minds, their thinking, of searching diligently and presenting only facts to support their stance. They must be willing and able to debate, to argue, absolutely non-personally but as heatedly as is necessary, to support their research. If this happens, the plan will either pass or not pass, but this will result in two communities, truly united and happy, working toward the same goal, a good life for everyone.

Another “Re-cap”, as promised in the last issue of Fact Finder. The figures and facts from the Port Henry Fire Department as reported by Fire Chief Jim Hughes at the last dissolution informational meeting of October 21st follows:

The Port Henry Fire Department

In regards to Village Dissolution, the cost and quality of Fire Protection is one very important aspect to consider.

<u>Department</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Cost per Thousand</u>
<i>Port Henry</i>	<i>\$108,945</i>	<i>\$1.71</i>
Moriah	\$143,525	\$2.06
Mineville-Witherbee	\$ 95,656	\$1.15
Total:	\$348,026	

What have you been getting?

- Fire protection since 1874 or 141 years of dedicated service.
- The largest, oldest, most diverse, all volunteer fire department in town with 54 members and growing.
- Fire Suppression, Accident Victim Extrication, Surface Ice Rescue, Boat/ Water Rescue, and Dive Rescue capabilities.
- Prompt Fire Response / Manpower: In 2014, the average response time was 4.35 minutes with an average of 7.3 Firefighters responding per call. For 2015, to date 55 calls, **3.14 minute response time** with 8.9 Firefighters responding per call.
- (1) NYS Licensed Practical Nurse; (2) NYS Certified First Responders and several Basic First Aid/CPR/AED certified Firefighters; (18) Surface Ice Rescue Technicians; (16) Jaws of Life Technicians; (1) HAZ MAT Technician, (5) NAUI Certified SCUBA Divers and (3) Firefighters with specialized fire suppression skills in crude oil derailments.
- An already consolidated building, since 1971, that houses the Village DPW equipment and all fire apparatus to include (3) Engines, (1) Rescue Van, (1) Brush Truck, and excludes (1) Rescue Boat.

Did you know?

The Port Henry Fire Department ...

- Responded to (89) calls in 2014, (63) in 2013, (74) in 2012, (103) in 2011 which included Structure Fires, Mutual Aid to neighboring communities, Ice / Water / Dive Rescues, Search & Rescue, Accident Victim Extrications, Car Fires, EMS Lift Assists, EMS Driver Requests, and Safety & Well Being checks on our elderly?

- Sponsors an annual \$500 Academic Scholarship (Ray McCabe Memorial Scholarship) to a college bound Moriah Central School Senior who has excelled in Science every June?
- Donates \$500-\$1000 annually to the Town of Moriah Food Pantry?
- Successfully achieved, since 1994, over **\$276,382** in various grants and awards for equipment and tool purchases at no cost to the taxpayers?
- In conjunction with our Auxiliary, at Christmas, annually distributes over \$1000 in candy & toys to needy children and families within the village?
- Sponsors the Plattsburgh Police Pipe and Drums Band at a cost of \$1,200 as our contribution to the Annual Town of Moriah Labor Day Celebration?

Fire Chief Hughes then suggested: *“If It Ain’t Broke, Don’t Fix It!”*

AN APOLOGY

Fact Finder owes an apology to our Mayor Ernie Guerin. At the last dissolution informational meeting, Fact Finder made note of some of the important points made by, hopefully all, the speakers at this meeting. I listened to the final speech, made by Mayor Guerin and decided on what I would like to include, then discovered some early errors and in correcting them forgot I had not transcribed what I had written in my mind for Mayor Guerin. Although it is after intervening events, I would like for some of his words and thoughts to be printed in the Fact Finder.

“In closing I would like to add a few comments of my own...” He said that he and “Tommy” had known each other all their lives and, whatever happened, they would continue to be friends. Mayor Guerin pointed out that this past January the Town had resolved that the Village should be dissolved; he asked did they have a plan. He said he did not think they did. He reminded people that the school’s football team was successful because they always had a plan. He also mentioned the fact that the Village had given the Town the Bulwagga Bay campsite and the Van Slooten property, which the Town sold, and he wondered if the Town would sell “our” beach if we were dissolved. He also believed that the Board, with the help of grants and the village crews, had been able, in the last few years, to accomplish much that was positive for the village. He stated the fact that numbers are basically fictitious, because they depend on whatever factors you choose to incorporate in your computations. He ended by saying he “would appreciate it if we would stay a Village.”

NEWS FROM THE MORIAH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Cathy Sprague, recently elected President of the Moriah Chamber of Commerce, must ask her Vice President David Koran to assume some of her duties while she cares for her husband Tim Sprague who suffered a heart attack. Note: that the Chamber’s scheduled “Open” hours for November and December are Thursdays, 10 am to 2 PM. 2016’s hours are to be determined and announced later. However, contact with and service to its members will be continuous through the winter, via email and phone.

FROM THE pH7 COMMITTEE

The pH7 met Wednesday November 4th to say “Goodbye”, for awhile, to two members who will be enjoying warmer of the US. However, though shy on the work force, pH7 will continue meeting and taking care of projects. The prime project at this time is placing the Christmas Tree in the Oval and decorating it. Another project discussed was how to put the Information Booth to use during the cold weather. New members and new ideas are welcomed. Meeting time is Wednesdays, 10 am – 12 N at the Chamber office in Port Henry.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Only one week away, the third annual Friends of the Sherman Free Library Holiday Bazaar will be

held on Saturday, November 14, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Port Henry from 10 am – 3PM. This is a great opportunity to start your holiday shopping. The Knights of Columbus will be serving lunch. Dessert can be purchased at the library bake sale table. For further information, contact Jackie Viestenz, 546-9855.

Maid in the Mountains' Gallery and Port Resale have changed their "Open" time in November to just **Saturday 10 AM-2 PM**. However, the shop is offering an exciting new idea. If you and several of your friends would like to have a private shopping spree together, call Sue at 617-504-2251, set up a suitable time for all, arrive as a group and have a dream Christmas shopping experience. Then, go have lunch or tea together. There is only one small draw back with such plans, the shop has announced winter closing for Saturday, November 28th. Don't wait too long or you will miss out on many wonderful and unique Christmas presents waiting there for friends and relatives.

Ken LaDeau would like to remind customers at his Champlain's Best Wash that the Huebsch washing machines (they were newly installed by Ken when he took ownership), are **energy-efficient** and need very little detergent to do an excellent job. Unfortunately some customers found out, the hard way, just *how* efficient and had suds bubbling out of the machines and all over the floor. These machines conserve water and save the customers on soap. If you have seen no signs warning customers of this, it is probably because there are too many varieties and types of detergents to warn of every possibility.

A general reminder that winter schedules for eating-out can change. Fact Finder will note these, changed or un-changed schedules, as it is made aware of them.

Don has decided to keep the Diner's schedule the same, Wednesday – Sunday, 7 am – 2 PM. With a "tip-o-the-hat" to the Fall season and the fact that he grew, not only those gorgeous pumpkins decorating the outside of the Diner, but many, many more of the same. His menu reflects this; a few of the offerings are pumpkin pancakes, pumpkin muffins, pumpkin bread and pumpkin soup.

The King's Inn is open Wednesday – Saturday, 4:30 – 9 PM and Sunday, 4:30 – 8:00 PM. Enjoy fine dining in a lovely ambience.

Michelle's King's Corner, with its pizza and other good foods, is open Wednesday – Saturday, 11 am – 2 PM and reopens 3:30 – 8 PM.

George's Restaurant will announce its winter schedule at a later date.

This past year Port Henry and Moriah welcomed several new accommodations for tourists. The **Edgemont B&B**, a lovely old home, opened to tourists this summer and caters particularly to the specific needs of touring bicyclists. **Sue McHone** has a three bedroom apartment, above The Maid in the Mountains Gallery and Port Resale, for week-enders and short-term visitors, which is available in November and December. It will close for several months then reopen in spring 2016. **Kathryn Lacey** is offering a two bedroom accommodation all through the winter, complete with full kitchen, dining area, living room and plenty of storage area for vacation equipment. There is a large parking area and it is *animal friendly!* Kathryn said this seemed only right as they have seven horses, eight dogs and a cat. She also said they keep the refrigerator well stocked with breakfast items and the visitor is always welcomed with baked goodies. Already they have welcomed visitors from Australia, Montreal, Canada, Washington State and North Carolina, all in their first summer! **Tim Bryant** is very visibly working very hard on what will be his tourist accommodation.

Please join me in laughter, it is good, not only for our souls but for our bodies. Forget that "apple a day," and have a good laugh at least once a day, whether it is an out loud "Ha, Ha," a giggle or a long chuckle.

"If you were my husband," Lady Astor said to Winston Churchill, "I'd poison your coffee." "If you

were my wife,” replied Churchill, “I’d drink it.”

At a dinner party, Calvin Coolidge was approached by a rather stuffy social matron. “President Coolidge,” she said, “my husband has bet me that I won’t be able to get three words out of you all evening.”

“You lose,” Coolidge replied.”

On a fence: “Salesmen welcome! Dog food is expensive!”

On a fence gate: “Guard dogs on duty three days a week!”

Quotes from Will Rogers:

Never squat while wearing your spurs.

The quickest way to double your money is to fold it up and put it back into your pocket.

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

Look for the next issue on **Saturday, November 21, 2015**, at the usual places.