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Copies of the newsletter are available at Town Hall, in the public libraries of Brant Lake, Adirondack hamlets, and on line at our web site:
www.horiconny.gov.



Ralph Bentley was honored with the Edith Denker Award for outstanding civic accomplishments for the Town of Horicon

Editor's note: Ralph Bentley received the Edith Denker Award for 2008 from the Brant Lake Foundation.

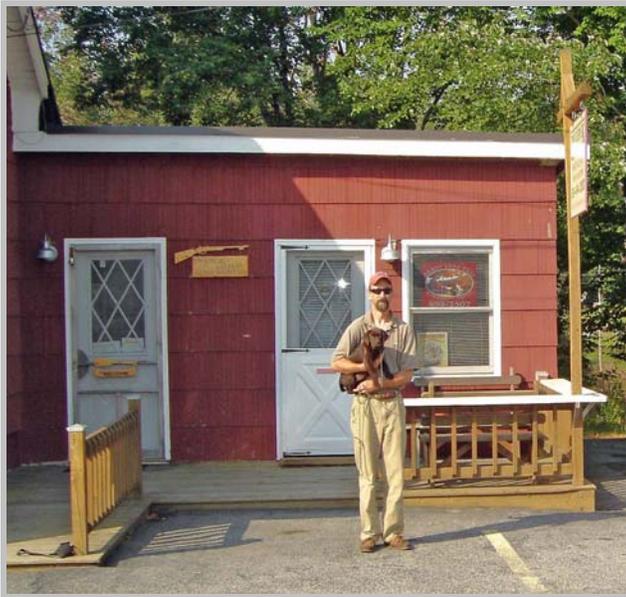
Among Ralph's many recent accomplishments cited by Henry Denker, who presented the award on behalf of the Brant Lake Foundation, were: "securing grants for low-income housing projects and improvement to more than 20 other homes; providing a \$10,000 grant from the Town of Horicon to support this year's efforts by the Brant Lake Foundation to control milfoil; completion of the new town hall, library and town garage; highway improvements; and initiating the comprehensive master plan update and Community Development Strategic Plan for both Brant Lake and Adirondack hamlets."

Letter from Ralph Bentley:

I am pleased to announce the completion this past summer of the following initiatives and services available to our town residents:

- *The town beach at Mill Pond was completely fenced in to meet NYS Dept. of Health (DOH) compliance.*
- *Warren County installed a new gate on the lower dam.*
- *The half- mile lengths of Short St. and Johnson Rd. were totally re-constructed and paved.*
- *The County recently completed re-pavement of 1.6 miles of Palisades- West; and 1.0 mile of Valentine Rd.*
- *The County completed paving and installation of guardrails on the Upper Dam area near Market Street.*
- *Heat applications (HEAP) will be available at Town Hall for those wishing to receive help with their winter heating bills. There will be a presentation at Town Hall by the Office of Aging on December 12, from 1-2:00PM; or, you may wish to call the Office of Aging for further information: 518-761-6347.*
- *A free livery van service for Senior Citizens and their special shopping needs in the Glens Falls area will be available twice a month. Call Dawn Higgins at Community Center: 494-3647 to sign up for this community outreach program. Service dates are the first Friday and the third Wednesdays of each month.*

New Business Established in Town: S.C.A. Guns and Sporting Goods, LLC.



Andy Liebelt and "Maggie" (a friendly 11-week old English Lab)

Andy Liebelt opened his guns and sporting goods store, at 6578 State Hwy #8, located next to the Brant Lake post office in November 2007. The building was at one time in the 50's a bar serving the local community.

Andy has been practicing his trade, specializing in gunsmithing for over 18 years. He vividly remembers the first year he bought a gun, when his family moved to Indian Lake around 1972. He recalls completely tearing down and re-assembling a bolt action Winchester 70. His shop is federally and state licensed to buy, sell, and trade firearms. In addition, Andy is Associate Broker of Broderick Real Estate, and has been in the business for over 12 years.

To pursue his specialty with any degree of success, a gunsmith must be a jack-of-all-trades: a mechanic, metalworker, woodworker, and artisan to be able to work precisely to insure the safety and accuracy of a firearm. There is much skill involved in working with hand tools, lathes, milling machines and grinders. Andy specializes in making custom stocks and restoring antique firearms, as well as applying corrosion resistant chemicals (can be as many as 8-10 coats), referred to as "bluing," to restore gun barrels to their original luster and appearance.

On the retail side, his shop offers a selection of fishing and gun supplies, including black powder; and features local craftwork such as pack baskets from Barbara Blum of Brant Lake, denim shirts by Chuck Hilton-who embroiders the Adirondack mountain motif that sell for \$24, and rustic white cedar picture frames among other items. Phone: 518-791-2745.

Horicon Historical Society Carriage House Addition



The new Carriage House Annex

The recently completed Carriage House annex of the Town of Horicon Historical Society will almost double the original museum display area to accommodate and more prominently feature additional antique items used by the early settlers of Horicon. The Historical Society contributed \$8,000 toward the construction cost with the Town defraying the rest.

These artifacts include a buggy donated by the Marietta Meade family, logging and farming implements used by local industries in the area. On display will be a timber log with a distinct "L" log mark, attributed to early pioneer lumbermen who worked for one of the principal lumber mills in the area, The Glens Fall Paper Mills Co. A Brant Lake resident found the log under water in the Mill Pond outlet.

According to Tom Johansen, President of the Horicon Historical Society, a Grand Opening ceremony will take place, on July 18, 2009. The Historical Society museum will be open to the public in June 2009.

Fighting Milfoil in Brant Lake: An Eradication and Control Update

Editor's Note: Joe Millington, Luc Aalmans, prepared this summary report. It is a collaborative effort of the Brant Lake Association Milfoil Committee to increase public awareness, and to engage increased volunteer support from the community of Brant Lake and Adirondack hamlets for the control and eradication of milfoil. Here is their progress report. The next issue of the Brant Lake Association's newsletter, *Brant Laker*, will feature an article on this urgent problem.

The milfoil invasion in Brant Lake is an urgent community problem affecting Brant Lake and Schroon Lake. The stark reality is that milfoil threatens to take over Brant Lake. New milfoil growth has been identified and mapped. This represents over 20 new beds, or 20,000 sq. feet of this invasive, non-native species. (Refer to the on-line map at www.brantlakeassoc.org/milfoilmap/milfoilmap.html)

The Brant Lake Association recently increased their milfoil control efforts by allocating an additional \$20,000 to fight and control the invasion. Much of these funds helped defray the cost to deploy a team of professional divers to intensify efforts to control the milfoil beds that need urgent attention. The professional dive team works closely with and augments the ongoing efforts of over 20 volunteers from the Brant Lake community. The volunteers have been actively engaged and successful in mapping the milfoil beds using GPS technology, and harvesting (a fancy name for "weeding" that is done by volunteer scuba divers at the bottom of the lake); and placing large benthic mats over the areas that have been harvested. The funds from the Association have been used to purchase a glass-bottomed kayak, which has proven to be very efficient and effective in finding and monitoring the milfoil beds.

The "plan of attack" for this past summer season has been to prioritize hand harvesting and mat placing. The work of volunteer teams has been focused on the dense and wide milfoil beds located in the Sunset Mountain area between Point O Pines Camp and the Brant Lake Farm beach. In addition, the teams hand harvested and placed mats over a large milfoil area near Grassville Road.

Luc Aalmans, Tom Wynn, Tricia Shimer, Terry Lynch, Matt Lynch and Gail Frenz have provided leadership and guidance to a dedicated team of volunteers. They have contracted and coordinated the volunteer efforts with a professional scuba diving team led by Andrew Lewis of Aquatic Invasive Management, LLC, which is located in Lake Placid. The program started in June, and has expanded through September 28. Together, both teams have achieved successful results in 2008. Here is a summary of the progress to-date:

- *Identified all known beds marked on GPS and displayed on the Brant Lake Association web site: www.brantlakefoundation.org.*
- *Created an on-line milfoil Yahoo Group to publish activity schedules with a central database of volunteers.*
- *Created an on-line database of shared information about each bed.*
- *Harvested a record amount of milfoil.*
- *Controlled the area around Sunset.*
- *Determined that mats are working (destroying milfoil and roots under the mats).*

Plan for Next Season:

- *Begin earlier—professional divers are committed for two weeks beginning last week of May.*
- *Expand volunteer efforts to monitor and report through milfoil hotline— 518-532-4454.*
- *Continue with the matting in dense areas.*
- *Continue hand harvesting.*
- *Raise public awareness of this significant problem throughout the Brant Lake and Adirondack community.*
- *Promote less boat traffic in areas that still contain dense milfoil beds.*

Fighting Milfoil: An Eradication and Control Update...continued

At a recent Brant Lake Association Board meeting, Luc Aalmans introduced Lewis and together they presented a three-year plan that would result in a dramatic reduction of milfoil in Brant Lake. On going and routine maintenance is the key to controlling milfoil. A maintenance program will only be effective if significant, time consuming and expensive efforts are implemented and budgeted through 2011. The volunteer teams will continue to harvest and mat the high-density milfoil beds and the Aquatic Invasive Management team will be responsible for combing the entire lake for low-density milfoil. Aalmans and Lewis estimated that with persistent dedication and ongoing efforts from both teams, they could harvest 100% of the high density beds, suppress new growth and expansion through mat placements; and eliminate the growth of new beds, through the extensive "line swimming" of a professional dive team composed of eight divers. At the conclusion of their presentation, Aalmans noted, "success of the program will only be achieved with the committed support from all citizens of the community."

Following the presentation by Aalmans and Lewis, the Board unanimously agreed to provide the leadership and financial investment to fund the three-year plan. The costs associated with the plan will be considerable and will require a community-wide fundraising campaign. Harry Robinson agreed to lead the fundraising efforts and since the board meeting, Harry has assembled a fundraising team and they have made progress toward building a plan that will provide the funds necessary for success. Joe Millington and Harry will lead their team to develop a Brant Lake Community Awareness Program. The Awareness Team will be responsible for door-to-door communication efforts; and in early July next year the team is planning to host a community-wide "kickoff" meeting.



Doug Paton, President of the Brant Lake Association, presented to Luc Aalmans the Edith Denker Memorial Service Award from the Brant Lake Association for his outstanding leadership and commitment as a leader of the ongoing volunteer efforts and activities to the control and eradication of milfoil in Brant Lake.

Doug Paton presenting to Luc Aalmans the Edith Denker Award

Comprehensive Master Plan Update Status

By Dr. Richard F. Lamb, Professor of Environmental Planning and the Center for Earth and Environmental Science, State University of Plattsburg: Comprehensive Master Plan Consultant to the Town of Horicon

The Town of Horicon comprehensive planning process is nearing completion. The plan consists of two documents prepared by separate consultants, but both under the supervision of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Professor Richard Lamb of SUNY Plattsburg, prepared the Town of Horicon Comprehensive Plan;” and the Laberge Group authored the “Town of Horicon Community Development Strategic Plan.”

The steering committee needs to meet at least once more to finalize several comprehensive plan issues, including determining the exact boundaries of the proposed “Millpond Zoning District” and the location of the proposed “Design Review Overlay Zones.” The Millpond zone will be a zoning district carved out of the current Brant Lake hamlet zone, where somewhat different zoning regulations would apply. The intent is to insure that new development is in keeping with the traditional character of this area. Design Review Overlay Zones would be locations within Brant Lake and Adirondack hamlets where new development would be subject to design review and approval by a local board, such as the Planning Board. “Design Guidelines for Brant Lake and Adirondack Hamlets,” prepared by the Laberge Group would also apply.

The next step in the planning process is to conduct one or more public meetings on the comprehensive plan, and revise it accordingly. Following that, the steering committee will begin work of specific land use regulation changes intended to implement recommendations of the plan. This will involve public information meetings and hearings, and ultimately submission of a package of regulatory changes to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) for their approval. (The Town of Horicon has an approved ‘local land use program” that enables the town to review and approve many developments that otherwise would require review and approval by the APA. Therefore, the APA must approve any changes in town zoning).

Open House Ceremonies to Commemorate the New Town Garage A Picture Gallery

Paul Smith, Highway Superintendent, hosted the Open House ceremonies at the new Town of Horicon garage, and said, “we now have a better working environment in which to respond to the community’s needs.”



**Paul Smith, Highway Superintendent,
Joe Metzger, Architect and Ralph
Bentley, Town Supervisor**



**Garage Interior: Truck bays and wash
down area.**

Dates to Remember:

- Brant Lake water level will be affected on October 14—the plank at the upper dam will be removed as is customary each year.
- New Office Hours:
Assessor’s Office: Monday - Thursday 10AM -2PM
Zoning Office: Monday-Friday 9AM-12PM.

Other hours by appointment only. Please leave a message at the appropriate extension. Your calls will be returned promptly.

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