



COUNCIL NEWS

The Newsletter of the Cooperative Tug Hill Council *Winter 2001-2002*



COOPERATIVE COUNCIL HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council held its' annual meeting on September 27, 2001 at the Hotel Parquet in Constableville. Approximately 30 attendees enjoyed an excellent buffet dinner provided by hosts Mary and Rick Failing. The annual business meeting followed dinner. Officers were elected for the upcoming year – Roger Tibbetts as Chairman, Bernard Metott as Vice Chairman, Howard Leitner as Secretary and Directors: Doug Dietrich, Bruce Snyder, Gene Norrs and J. Hugh Quinn. The council also approved a budget for next year and work goals for the council.

We also heard a report from Anne Saltman of the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board on their work to protect the Oneida Lake watershed working in conjunction with local governments.

Anne presented background on Oneida Lake and informed us that two-thirds of the lake's water comes from the Tug Hill region. She asked for council participation in the watershed protection project thru a resolution of support that will be sent to each town within the watershed.



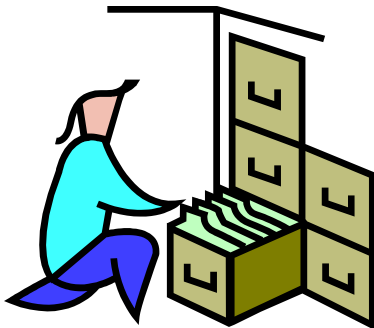
'SUPERCOG' MEETS IN CAMDEN



Officers of each of the Tug Hill region's councils of government (COGs) met at Katie and Karl's Restaurant in Camden to discuss issues of common interest on Thursday, November 1. Each council discussed the different ways that they function. They also were briefed on the new Tug Hill Commission policy for working with communities outside the Tug Hill region. Commission Executive Director Bob Quinn, and staffer Dave Zembiec, presented information on the new proposal to start a program for local leaders that would allow them to become more familiar with the region and their role in governing. More information will be available on this "Leaders Exchange" early next year.

SEARS POND PROJECT GOES AHEAD

Throughout the past year, a group of interested citizens have been working to gauge interest in the restoration and development of a recreational facility for public use at Sears Pond. The citizen's committee has developed and sent a survey to each landowner in the Town of Montague to gauge their interest in additional recreational opportunities in the town and possible restoration of the Sears Pond area. Additional surveys will be available at local establishments for recreationists and other interested people to give their thoughts on the issue. Results will be tabulated and appropriate actions will be taken based on the results.



“SARA” GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR RECORDS MANAGEMENT

New York State's Education Department has announced that they are accepting applications for grants from the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund to improve records management and archival administration in local NYS governments. Grants are available for inventory and planning, active records, inactive records, historical records etc. Contact your circuit rider or the Tug Hill Commission if your township is interested. Grant application deadline is February 1, 2002.

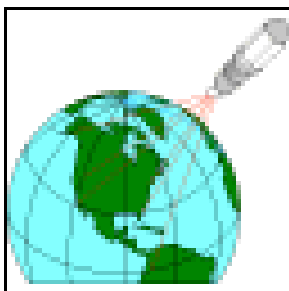
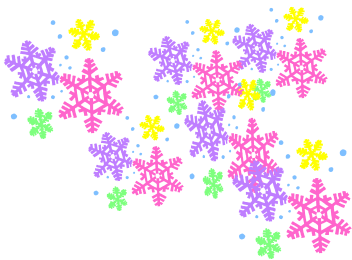
SALMON RIVER GREENWAY COMMUNITY PLAN WORKSHOPS ATTRACT DOZENS OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

Three workshops for citizens of the Salmon River Greenway in Oswego County attracted 60 to 70 attendees this week and last. Greatest attendance was at Wednesday's (11/28) workshop at the Redfield town hall, where about 30 residents joined facilitators from the Oswego County Planning and Community Development Department and the Tug Hill Commission to discuss what they would like to see the Salmon River and adjoining lands look like in the future. About two dozen citizens attended the workshop held in Pulaski on Monday (11/26), and a dozen at the workshop in Altmar the week before.



Participants in the workshops reviewed a range of suggestions from consultants as to the sorts of development and community design that might best support environmental protection and economic growth, and were asked to rate those suggestions as "very important," "important," or "not important." They also were asked to indicate where they thought residential development, commercial development and environmental protection should occur using maps and colored dots.

In general, citizens attending the workshops supported keeping much or most of the undeveloped portions of the Salmon River and reservoir in their natural state, and encouraging future development in areas where it already exists.



COMING SOON

**Don't Forget
Teleconference for Newly-elected Officials**

The teleconference will be held on December 17, 2001 at your local site – Lewis County Cooperative Extension and Oswego County Cooperative Extension. All newly elected officials are welcome. The format is interactive and you'll be able to ask questions of the panel. More information is available from the Tug Hill Commission at: 888-785-2380 (toll-free within the region) or your circuit rider.

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPERS PLAN ON SEEKING TOWN APPROVALS IN JANUARY



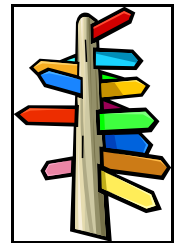
At a meeting attended by about 60 local officials and residents in Martinsburg on November 15th, Bill Moore of Atlantic Renewable Energy said they hoped to bring a proposal to build a 50-windmill energy facility for town approval in January. If approved, they hoped to break ground on the project in the spring and construct the wind towers and turbines in the summer and fall.

The huge project would span portions of three towns – Martinsburg, Harrisburg and Lowville in Lewis County, and would be the largest wind energy facility in the eastern United States. The energy produced might be sold out of state or in state. Landowners who allowed windmills on their property (farms for the most part) would receive annual payments of about \$5,000 to \$7,000 for each windmill. Towns, school districts and Lewis County would receive “voluntary payments” (rather than property tax payments) estimated to be in the range of \$300,000 to \$375,000 per year.

A presentation was also made by Simon DiPietro of DP Energy. DP Energy plans a similar project that they hope to bring to the towns for approval later in 2002. Charles Puglisis of the N.Y.S. Public Service Commission, and John Saincross of the N.Y.S. Energy Research and Development Authority, noted that the three towns would most likely take the lead in the approval process and environmental review of the projects.



TOWNS AND CLUBS DISCUSS MOTORIZED TRAILS AT THE SOUTH END OF CORE FOREST



The future of snowmobile and all-terrain-vehicle (ATV) trails at the southern end of the Tug Hill core forest were discussed on November 14, at a meeting at Plumley’s Pond in Florence. The meeting was organized by circuit rider Jane Jones along with staff from the Tug Hill Commission at the request of the Town of Florence.

Questions about access to state lands for trails, the likely need for additional parking areas, and concerns about town road availability for snowmobile and ATV trails led to the meeting. The scope of the meeting included the neighboring towns of Annsville, Redfield, Osceola and Lewis, all crucial to trails in this part of the Tug Hill region, and towns with considerable acreage in state lands.

Attending for the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation was forest ranger Bernie Davies who covers DEC forest lands in Lewis County. Involved in the project but unable to attend this week is forest ranger Bob Patrick who handles DEC forest lands in Oneida County.

**HAVE A SAFE AND JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON
AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR!**

