



LLHA COMMUNICATOR

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Tax Cap on Adirondack State Land Rescinded

Cap Removed from 2009-2010 NYS Budget

The proposed cap on State tax payments on Adirondack Forest Preserve lands has been eliminated from the final budget. Under Governor Patterson's proposed budget, New York's property tax payments to municipalities would have been frozen at 2008-09 rates. This would have resulted in significant property tax increases in rural communities with large tracts of State land, such as in the Town of Franklin.

Response to Public Outcry

Huge opposition and outcry from various sectors led to the withdrawal of what many considered to be an ill-conceived proposal. The Adirondack Common Ground Alliance, a group composed of environmental and government officials and business owners within the Park spearheaded the opposition effort. A call to action by the Loon Lake Homeowners' Association Board of Directors urged LLHA members to contact local legislators to voice their opposition.

A Time for Renewal

A New Season Begins

Many of us had left Loon Lake during late summer or perhaps the Fall to return to warmer climates and/or to the reality of everyday living. But, by this time you're probably beginning to think about your return to that wonderful piece of heaven called Loon Lake.

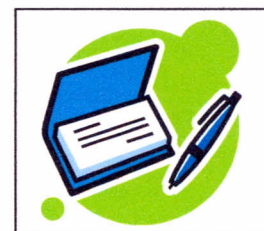
Those few of us who remained can report that the snow and ice have left town; and that sprouting buds and incipient plant life are beginning to replenish the earth; and that busy chipmunks and squirrels scurry about and yes that our tiny airborne black visitors are about to make their debut. Loon Lake is beginning to awaken and an air of renewal prevails.

A Time for Membership Renewal

Likewise, this is the time that the Loon lake Homeowners' Association (LLHA), your organization, also renews itself **with new and renewed memberships which enable us to sustain and maintain our mission to protect the lake and preserve the quality of life herein.** So please fill out the membership form and send in your dues of \$30 at your earliest convenience to LLHA PO Box 219, Vermontville, NY 12989. Membership forms can be found in this mailing and also on our website: www.loonlakeboa.org. Last year's record-breaking 90 plus membership enrollments were a tremendous help in enabling us to carry out our activities and vital projects. Let's do it again and then some!

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Town of Franklin News

\$800,000 Bond Proposal Defeated

On April 21 the Town of Franklin proposed an \$800,000 bond to fund the repair, update and expansion of Town garage was brought to a referendum and voted down by Franklin taxpayers. Of the 321 votes that were cast, 225 were against, 92 in favor and 4 were voided due to ripped ballots. The resulting defeat came as no surprise since many felt that \$800,000 was exorbitant and the garage update could be accomplished less expensively.

Votes were submitted with paper ballots. Ballots and stubs were numbered with numbers corresponding with those listed next to the voter's signature log. Many felt that this numbering system would breach the secrecy of their vote. According to an *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* article Town Clerk Sandra Oliver stated that no one will ever know how anybody voted because the list of names and detached stubs were put in separate envelopes and sealed before the ballots were counted. Franklin County Election Commissioner Kathy Fleury stated that the procedure was lawful; however, according to the *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* the law addresses the numbering of the stubs but not the ballots.

Subdivision Law Update

Survey Taken

The Town's subdivision committee, which is preparing a law that would require any subdivision of five lots or more to be subject to Town Board approval, solicited input from residents via a survey in March. Survey results were reported by the *Adirondack Daily Enterprise*: There were 255 responses out of 1,008 mailed out. Sixty two percent (158) of the respondents were in favor, 31 percent (79) opposed them and 7 percent (18) were undecided. A copy of the law was not available to the public before the March 28 survey response deadline. *Editor's note: It is my opinion that it would have been better to conduct the survey after a copy of the law was available so that respondents could have given an informed opinion.*

Public Hearing to be Held

Dick Jarvis, Chairman of the Subdivision Committee, anticipates that a draft of the subdivision document will be ready by the end of May. At that point it will be turned over to legal advisors to insure legality. Jarvis expects a final draft will be available to the public sometime in June, after which a public hearing on the issue will be held sometime in July. Jarvis indicated that the July public hearing date would enable seasonal homeowners to comment and ask questions.

LLHA Scheduled Events

Fishing Derby

- **Date: Saturday June 20**
- **Place: Garden Road Access**
- **Contact Keith Silliman for details:**
kgsilliman@gmail.com
Or 518-788-8665

Membership Annual Meeting

- **Time and Date: 12 Noon Sunday July 12 (Membership Renewal 11:30-12:00**
- **Place: Loon Lake Jewish Center**
- **Speaker: Doug Tichenor, Tax Assessor**
- **Nominations for 3 Board Seats will be accepted for a vote.**

Annual Picnic

- **Time and Date: 1 pm Sunday Aug. 2, [Rain Date Sunday Aug. 9]**
- **Place: Beach.**
- **Bring chairs and/or blankets.**

Canoe/Kayak Race

- **Time and Date: 10:00 am, Aug. 2**
- **Before picnic**
- **Place: Beach**
- **Prizes**

Soleil Bacque Accepted to Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine

The *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* recently reported that LLHA members Jacque and Elizabeth Bacque's daughter Soleil has been accepted to Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. Soleil, who is a biology major at St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH, is a member of the Beta Beta Biological National Honor Society. As an undergraduate, she has the distinction of being the first student representative on the Animal Care and Usage Committee at the College. She was invited by NYS Veterinary Society past President to attend the annual NYS Veterinary Conference at Cornell University as a guest. She completed a research paper entitled "The Effectiveness of Play Enrichment on Decreased Stress Behavior in Captive *Ursus Americanus*." Bacque will graduate from St. Anselm College in May.

A Not So Cozy Holiday Fire

A near disaster was averted at the Near Oak camp on Horsehead Point on New Year's Day when LLHA Secretary Diane Castrovinci inadvertently started a grease fire at the kitchen stove. "I attempted to pour grease into a metal bowl and it started flaming out the back onto the wall," Diane exclaimed. Her husband Tom's effort with a fire extinguisher failed when the extinguisher did not work. Before Diane attempted to extinguish the blaze with water (a no no with grease fires), her cousin Jeff smothered the flames by covering them with a large stainless steel bowl, saving the day and the house.

The fire department's arrival was delayed because the sign identifying the private road to the house was not visible from Route 26. After a thorough check by the fire department confirmed that there was no hidden fire in the walls, the evacuees returned indoors. (*See Diane's written account of the incident posted on the website's Health, Safety and First Aid link.*) She details the lessons learned from the incident. www.loonlakehoa.org

Electronic Message Board Available

You can now check out important and not so important notices to Loon Lakers via a message board on our website: www.loonlakehoa.org . You may also post your own notices, comments, questions, or even list that antique stump end table you have for sale. We only ask for a little decorum: no spam, no offensive posts, nothing you wouldn't want a child to see or read. Have at it! For any questions, contact **Webmaster: Scott Muller:** scottmuller@soinclinedwebdesign.com



LLHA Offering

LLHA hats, visors and a limited number of t-shirts are available for donations as follows: \$15 ea. or any combination for 2/\$25 plus \$4.00 packaging and shipping.

Hats and visors are one size fits all. Available t-shirt sizes are (1) SM, (5) L, (7) XL, (3) XXL.

Check or Money orders only.

Send requests to: LLHA Order Dept., PO Box 219, Vermontville, NY 12989



Invitation

You are cordially invited to visit and contribute to our website.

www.loonlakehoa.org

Presidents Message

By Vince Pagano

In the past, many Loon Lake homeowners have been active and continue to be active in participating in activities that are consistent with the LLHA Mission; that is, they have worked to maintain the beach area, monitored the environment for invasive species, helped in monitoring water quality, promoted water safety, worked as communicators via newsletters and website, attended and reported on lake related issues at out of town conferences, attended town board meetings and monitored the Town's activities, became involved in ongoing legal/taxation/development issues, served on the Board of Directors, solicited membership, collected data for the loon census, conducted activities such as the annual picnic, kayak races and fishing derby, assumed control of lake access, etc.

For all those who have served and continue to serve, we take this opportunity to commend them and express gratitude for their admirable efforts that make LLHA an effective and relevant organization. Also, we invite others to be involved.



Loon Lake Homeowners Association
PO Box 219, Vermontville, NY 12989,
Phone/Fax: 518-891-4095, E-mail:
president@loonlakehoa.org,
Website: www.loonlakehoa.org



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vince Pagano president@loonlakehoa.org
Tom Bartiss, vicepresident@loonlakehoa.org
Diane Castrovinci,
secretary@loonlakehoa.org
Jennifer Dalch, treasurer@loonlakehoa.org
Joe Lemay: lemay@aol.com
Stuart Lucks: goodlux2@aol.com
Chuck Reyes: reyes@geneseo.esu
Keith Silliman: kgsilliman@gmail.com
Stan Ungar: stanungar@aol.com
Leonard Wisse: leonardwise@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Scott Muller:
scottmuller@soinclinedwebdesign.com

ICE-OUT OUT

In our November 2008 *LLHA Communicator* LLHA called for entries in an "Ice-Out" contest; that is, contestants were to guess the time and date that the ice would melt at a certain location in Loon Lake. However, there were no entries and the contest was aborted.

For your information, most of the ice melted on Thursday, April 16.



First Loon Sighting

Ryon Duquette reported that his first observation of a single loon of the season was at 8 am on Saturday, April 18 in front of his camp close to the other side of the lake. He said he will note other sightings as they occur.

