



**February 13, 2015**

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# Tug Hill Times

*Tug Hill Times* is published semimonthly by the Tug Hill Commission for its board members, staff and associates, and the local representatives of the region's communities.

## Commission Strategic Plan

At their recent Commission meeting the Tug Hill Commission members approved the Strategic Plan for 2015-19. The plan sets forth priorities and programs for the next five years based upon input received from the Tug Hill Local Leaders Survey, the region's five councils of government and two strategic planning sessions held last summer and fall. The plan retains focus on the Commission's three program areas - planning, natural resources, and community development and sets some project goals within each program area. In addition the Commission members stress the importance of training and technical assistance to local elected and appointed officials, including the annual local government conference, as well as advancing the use of technology and geographic information systems for local governments.

The plan highlights the challenges faced by our municipalities and ways our services can assist them. One of the challenges faced by our towns and villages includes delivering services within the 2% tax cap while improving their efficiency of providing essential services. The region's rural communities continue to face increasing demands from state mandates. While providing essential services, the need for training, recruitment and retention of largely volunteer public servants continues to increase, placing even more pressure on them. From elected and appointed boards to emergency services, communities find it difficult to recruit volunteers to fill their necessary boards. The communities, therefore, need to consider shared and consolidated services and increasing training opportunities for their volunteers. The Commission has devoted considerable time and effort in helping the region's local governments meet these challenges and will continue to place a priority on helping them meet these changing times.

The plan also provides some direction to Commission staff on priority projects over the next few years. Included are: integrating community development projects in comprehensive plans; focusing on corridors, trails and connections between the region's communities, including a focus on the north shore of Oneida Lake; bringing high speed broadband and cellular service to underserved communities and businesses in the region; continued focus on the Tug Hill Aquifer and watersheds throughout the region; and, strategic efforts on the core forest working forests.

The 2015-19 Tug Hill Commission Strategic Plan provides an overall direction for Commission staff and programs but does not take away from the Commission's ability to adapt and respond to local issues and opportunities as they arise. The Commission members and staff want to thank all those local officials who have worked with us over the past year in developing this plan and in shaping the future of both the Commission and region. The Strategic Plan can be viewed on the Commission's website at [www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org) and we will email or mail it to anyone on request. If you would like a copy of the plan please contact Gwen Decker at [gwen@tughill.org](mailto:gwen@tughill.org) or 1-888-785-2380.

## **Steuben Appoints New Supervisor and Remsen Appoints New Clerk**

In the wake of the passing of former Supervisor Harry Landman in early January, the Town of Steuben in northern Oneida County was left with the difficult task of seeking an individual to fill the position. After consideration, the town council looked to former long-time planning board member and secretary Joe Rowlands to assume the role, which he accepted in January.

“Our Town Council asked me to accept the position as interim Town Supervisor until January 1, 2016 and since I have recently retired from full time employment, I accepted that offer,” said Rowlands, who has served on that town's planning board for more than twelve years as a member and secretary.

The Town of Remsen has also made an appointment to fulfill the term of town clerk left vacant by Robert Walter who also passed away in January. Deputy Clerk Christy Allen accepted the position and was sworn in during the January meeting. Her term will expire at the end of 2015. Both positions will be put before voters in the upcoming fall election cycle.

NOCCOG and Tug Hill Commission staff will be readily available to help guide both municipalities through the transition process and beyond.

**26th Annual Local Government Conference**  
**Jefferson Community College**  
**March 26, 2015**  
**Early registration ends Marcy 4<sup>th</sup>**

## **Pellet Heating in Town Facilities**

Two Adirondack towns were recently highlighted in a Post Star article for their projects to switch from fuel oil-based heat to wood pellets. The Town of Saranac has already installed their pellet heating system, and the Town of Chester is in the process. Read the article here: [http://poststar.com/news/local/municipalities-eye-benefits-in-changing-to-wood-heat/article\\_10646944-aafc-11e4-9af1-93269709e1af.html?utm\\_source=our+newsletters&utm\\_campaign=e3ea286cc1-News+Digest+2.5.15&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_09adcc0f24-e3ea286cc1-125412017](http://poststar.com/news/local/municipalities-eye-benefits-in-changing-to-wood-heat/article_10646944-aafc-11e4-9af1-93269709e1af.html?utm_source=our+newsletters&utm_campaign=e3ea286cc1-News+Digest+2.5.15&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_09adcc0f24-e3ea286cc1-125412017)

## **State Historic Preservation Office Releases 2015–2020 NYS Historic Preservation Plan**

The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) recently released a five year plan for historic preservation. OPRHP houses the State Historic Preservation Office - usually referred to as SHPO - and has outlined three broad goals: expand historic preservation efforts across New York State; promote historic preservation at local and regional levels; and cultivate pride of place.

The SHPO's programs and services includes the statewide historic resource survey, the State and National Registers of Historic Places, federal and state historic preservation tax credits, Certified Local Government program, historic preservation planning, state historic preservation grants, federal and state environmental reviews and technical assistance, are provided through collaborative working teams assigned to territories across the state. The SHPO works with individuals, organizations, private enterprises and governments as well as Native American tribal communities to raise awareness of the value of preservation, instill in New Yorkers a sense of pride in the state's heritage, and encourage community revitalization and heritage tourism activities.

More information on SHPO can be found on their website, <http://parks.ny.gov/shpo/>. The full five year plan can be found here: <http://parks.ny.gov/shpo/preservation-plan/documents/NewYorkStateHistoricPreservationPlan20152020.pdf>

# The Black River Trash Bash is Part of a Much Larger Picture

This week, Natalie Grant, Beach Cleanup Coordinator from the American Littoral Society, communicated with volunteers all over the State, including us and the many volunteers that participated in the Black River Trash Bash this past fall. The email thanked all the volunteers across New York State for participating in the 2014 New York State Beach Cleanup. Ms. Grant reported that Statewide, over 6,800 volunteers participated in the event and that they removed 92,677 lbs. of trash from 27 New York State counties. In terms of shoreline, 245 miles of shoreline were cleaned!

1	Cigarette Butts	49773
2	Plastic Pieces (2.5cm or smaller)	35766
3	Bottle Caps (Plastic)	26249
4	Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	25139
5	Foam Pieces (2.5 cm or smaller)	21563
6	Beverage Bottles (Plastic)	16711
7	Glass Pieces (2.5 cm or smaller)	16008
8	Straws, Stirrers	15487
9	Bottle Caps (Metal)	8858
10	Beverage Cans	8037
11	Beverage Bottles (Glass)	7777
12	Other Plastic Bags	7646

Locally, the Black River Trash Bash is held every year and is organized by the Tug Hill Commission. During this year's Trash Bash, 28 volunteers picked up 560 pounds of trash from 5 miles of shoreline and filled 24 trash bags! Many of the "Dirty Dozen" items cited at the state level are echoed in our data cards locally. Over the last five years, our hard working and dedicated volunteers have filled 160 bags and removed over 2,800 pounds of trash from the shores of the Black River.

Although the official date of the 2015 New York State Beach Cleanup is Saturday, September 19th, you may choose any date during the months of September and October that is convenient for you and your group. Registration opens in May. If you wish to organize a Black River Trash Bash event this year, please contact Jennifer Harvill [jennifer@tughill.org](mailto:jennifer@tughill.org) or 785-2392.

Involvement in this cleanup is very important to us locally and to the American Littoral Society. Please continue to get the word out and encourage new volunteers to join you in the 2015 cleanup. We continue to be grateful to our volunteers and contributors!

## NorCOG, Salmon Rivers Council of Governments Meet

The North Shore Council of Governments (NorCOG) and the Salmon Rivers Council of Governments (SRCG) each met recently in their first meetings of 2015. Agenda items included election of 2015 officers, COG financial report, approval of payment of bills including the current year contract with Tug Hill Commission and co-sponsorship of the 2015 Tug Hill Local Government Conference. Additional topics included North Shore's discussion on recreation facilities and Oneida Lake access opportunities, and Salmon River's discussion on progress on the Tug Hill Aquifer study.

NorCOG and SRCG have each both scheduled their next meetings, tentatively set for the end of April 2015.

Contact us at:

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Commission**

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**Assisting Communities  
and citizens for  
over 40 years.**

**Tug Hill Trivia???**

According to the 2010  
census, which Tug Hill  
towns had the biggest  
population and smallest  
population.

The **FIRST** person to  
email the correct answer  
will receive a  
**FREE** Registration to the  
2015 Local Government  
Conference on March 26!!

Send your answer to  
gwen@tughill.org

If you have already regis-  
tered and are the winner,  
your registration will be  
reimbursed.

## Lowville Holding Public Hearing on Zoning

The Village of Lowville is holding a public hearing Wednesday, February 18th on a newly revised zoning law. The comprehensive overhaul is intended to simplify enforcement and bring the law into better compliance with the village's 2009 comprehensive plan. Revitalizing the downtown and ensuring quality development on the southern edge of the village are key components of the plan which will be implemented by the revised law.

## Materials for Newly Elected Town Officials

Whether you are a newly elected town official or have served many years as a town official, these resources from Association of Towns of NY can be a valuable source of information. Check them out!

Video: Just Elected - What Do You Do Now? - December 12, 2013 (2.5 hours)  
<http://mfile.akamai.com/23543/wmv/citrixvar.download.akamai.com/23543/www/389/196/835630020215389196/3-835630020215389196-142e9b5ff43.asx>

Slideshow: Just Elected - What Do You Do Now? - December 12, 2013  
<http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/training/pdf/slideshow121213.pdf>

Handout: First Meeting of the New Town Board - Suggestions for Procedure  
<http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/training/pdf/townlawbook.pdf>

Handout: Information for Town Officials  
<http://osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/townoff/ito.pdf>

Handout: Fiscal Oversight Responsibilities of the Governing Board  
[http://osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/lgmg/fiscal\\_oversight.pdf](http://osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/lgmg/fiscal_oversight.pdf)

Handout: Fiscal Stress Monitoring  
<http://osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/fiscalmonitoring/pdf/fiscalstressmonitoring.pdf>

Handout: Municipal Ethics  
[http://www.nytowns.org/sites/default/files/Municipal\\_Ethics\\_2014.pdf](http://www.nytowns.org/sites/default/files/Municipal_Ethics_2014.pdf)

For more information about Association of Towns of NY go to [www.nytowns.org](http://www.nytowns.org).

## Welcome, Sunshine Jenkins!

Welcome, Sunshine Jenkins! Newly assigned Grants Administrator for the Thousand Islands Region of the Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation. Working out of Keewaydin State Park in Alexandria Bay, she will provide technical assistance to eligible applicants seeking funding through the annual NYS Consolidated Funding Application Process and grant administration. She can be reached by e-mail at [Sunshine.Jenkins@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Sunshine.Jenkins@parks.ny.gov) or by phone at (315)482-2593 ext. 220.