



# 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.

June 7, 2013

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Tug Hill Commission Celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Third Annual Black River Watershed Conference Held in Lowville
- Consolidated Funding Application Materials Available Online
- Community Resource Packets Available
- DOT & DEC To Review the Management Plan for Remsen-Lake Placid Rail Line
- Northern Border Regional Commission Grant Round Open
- Article X Discussion Paper Available Online
- Windows XP Nears End of Service Life
- GPS for K.I.D.S.S Summer Program

## Tug Hill Commission Celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



From left, John Bartow, Executive Director, Ben Coe is designated 33<sup>rd</sup> Tug Hill Sage.

Commissioners, staff, alumni and friends from all over Tug Hill gathered together at The Beeches in Rome on May 30, 2013 to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of what is now known as the NYS Tug Hill Commission. The crowd enjoyed music provided by the NYS Old Tyme Fiddlers' Association, and reminisced through the decades with a light-hearted look at the defining moments of the Commission through a "Memories and Milestones" powerpoint presentation. Marc Gerstman, Executive Deputy Commissioner of DEC provided a keynote address highlighting DEC programs and initiatives that pertain to different facets of Tug Hill.

The highlight of the evening was the designation of Ben Coe as the 33<sup>rd</sup> Tug Hill Sage. Ben was the first Executive Director of the Commission and served in that position for 20 years. He helped define the mission of the then Temporary State Commission on Tug Hill, and set the Commission on a course that has held true to the grassroots tradition embraced by the people of Tug Hill. Never before has this distinction gone to a Commission staff person.



Tug Hill Commission Staff and Alumni

## Third Annual Black River Watershed Conference Held in Lowville

The third annual Black River Watershed Conference was held on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Lowville Fire Hall. Just over 60 people attended the event, which is organized annually by the Tug Hill Commission, NYS DEC Region 6 and the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District. Speakers covered a range of topics including invasive species, recreation, economic development, water quality and Black River Watershed projects. The Black River Watershed covers parts of five counties including Jefferson, Lewis, Hamilton, Herkimer and Oneida counties. Registrants came from many local watershed communities and also from as far away as Albany, NY and Franklin County, NY.

All of the presentations are available online at <http://www.tughill.org/proj/presentations-from-the-2013-black-river-watershed-conference/>.

June 16

Happy  
Father's  
Day

## **Consolidated Funding Application Materials Available Online; Page 2 Most Applications Due August 12**

Governor Cuomo announced this week that the next round of funding through the Regional Economic Development Councils is available. Many new programs have been added to the list of resources available through the CFA process. Some of the programs that Tug Hill municipalities and organizations have utilized in the past include:

- ◆ **Community Development Block Grant Program** – for small communities with a specific community or economic development need within one of the following areas: (1) Economic Development, (2) Small Business Assistance, (3) Public Infrastructure, or (4) Public Facilities.
- ◆ **New York Main Street** - provides resources to invest in projects that provide economic development and housing opportunities in downtown, mixed-use commercial districts. A primary goal of the program is to stimulate reinvestment and leverage additional funds to establish and sustain downtown and neighborhood revitalization efforts.
- ◆ **OPRHP – Municipal Grant Program** - acquisition, planning, development, and improvement of parks, historic properties, and heritage areas.
- ◆ **OPRHP – Recreational Trails Program** - The Recreational Trails Program provides funds to states to develop and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use. Funding is available for the maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for recreational trails, purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment, construction of new recreational trails, and acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors.
- ◆ **NYS DOS – Local Waterfront Revitalization Program** - planning, feasibility, design, or marketing of specific projects, construction projects, to advance the preparation or implementation of strategies for community and waterfront revitalization through any of the following grant categories:
  - ◇ Preparation or Implementation of a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
  - ◇ Redeveloping Hamlets, Downtowns and Urban Waterfronts
  - ◇ Planning or Constructing Land and Water based Trails
  - ◇ Preparing or Implementing a Lakewide or Watershed Revitalization Plan
- ◆ **NYS DEC/EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant** - assist municipalities with a Median Household Income (MHI) of \$65,000 or less with the engineering and planning costs of CWSRF-eligible water quality projects. Grants of up to \$50,000 (with a 20% required local match) will be provided to finance activities including engineering and/or consultant fees for engineering and planning services for the production of an engineering report.
- ◆ **EFC Green Innovation Grant Program** - improve water quality and demonstrate green stormwater infrastructure in New York:
  - ◇ Permeable pavement
  - ◇ Bioretention
  - ◇ Green roofs and walls
  - ◇ Stormwater street trees
  - ◇ Construction or restoration of wetlands, floodplains, or riparian buffers
  - ◇ Stream daylighting
  - ◇ Downspout disconnection
  - ◇ Stormwater harvesting and reuse
- ◆ **NYSERDA – Cleaner Greener Communities Program, Phase II Implementation Grants**
  - ◇ Up to \$1 million available for communities to adopt streamlined permitting and other ordinance photovoltaic systems and electric vehicle charging stations
  - ◇ Up to \$4 million available for communities to create or revise comprehensive plans, including updating zoning ordinances and addressing sustainability and resiliency,
  - ◇ Up to \$25 million for large-scale, capital, sustainability projects contributing to community resiliency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- ◆ **NYS DOS – Local Government Efficiency Program** – for local government reorganization, functional or service delivery consolidation, city or county charter revisions that include functional consolidation, cooperative service agreements, and establishment of regional service delivery mechanisms.

Training sessions are being organized by each of the Regional Councils. The only one scheduled to date will be held after the next North Country REDC meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2013, SUNY Potsdam, Barrington Student Union, 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm. Stay tuned and check the [www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov](http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov) website for more training session announcements and a full listing of funding programs available through the CFA.

## Community Resource Packets Available

Page 3

Over the course of the past year, agencies in Oneida County have been asked questions regarding regulations impacting the Amish population in the area. A "Community Resource Packet" of information that includes various brochures, pamphlets, and fact sheets has been compiled to assist local residents that have limited access to resources. These packets have been distributed to a number of local Amish residents during the month of April. A similar packet was mailed to municipal clerks the first week in May. Staff involved in this project from numerous county and state agencies answered questions from local officials at a meeting in May at Oneida County Cornell Cooperative Extension. A list of the materials and electronic versions of all handouts in the Community Resource Packets can be found at the following website: <https://cornell.box.com/crpacket>.

The packet contains information that varies from regulations on slow moving vehicles to guidelines for farm housing to information on obtaining hunting and fishing licenses. Some of the basic information has come from states with large Amish populations (Ohio and Pennsylvania) since it is the most current information. Any of the resources that reference local laws or regulations are specific to either NYS or Oneida County.

---

## DOT & DEC To Review The Management Plan For Remsen-Lake Placid Rail Line

The New York State Departments of Transportation and Environmental Conservation announced this week that the state is initiating a public process to review the Unit Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (UMP/EIS) for the Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor, a 119-mile section of rail line that runs through the Adirondack Park and Tug Hill Region. The UMP/EIS will be reviewed to assess the corridor's natural and physical resources in an effort to identify the best public and economic use. The DOT and DEC will work with the APA and schedule public scoping meetings on a timely basis to help determine what issues and factors will be considered in the environmental review. Both agencies will subsequently prepare an amended draft UMP/EIS laying out a vision for the future of the Travel Corridor. The 119-mile long Remsen Lake Placid Travel Corridor is under the jurisdiction of DOT, and is managed pursuant to a Travel Corridor Unit UMP/EIS. The Travel Corridor runs in a northeasterly direction connecting Utica to Lake Placid. Approximately 100 miles of this Travel Corridor is located within the Adirondack Park. An additional 19 miles is located outside of the Park in the Tug Hill Region.

---

## Northern Border Regional Commission Grant Round Open; Applications Due July 15

The NBRC federal grant program is available to participating member states, local governments, non-profits, and Native American entities for projects within the NBRC region. In NY, that includes the 14 counties of Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, Seneca, and St. Lawrence. Eligible projects must develop the transportation, water, sewer, energy, and telecommunications infrastructure of the region; assist the region in obtaining job skills and employment related education, as well as entrepreneurship, technology and business development; provide basic health care and other public services for those areas that are severely economically distressed and underdeveloped; promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open spaces in a manner consistent with economic development goals; and, to promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources. This year, projects that promote transportation, utilities and telecommunications will receive extra points in scoring. The maximum grant for any applicant is \$200,000, and projects in all four Tug Hill counties require a 20% match. Approximately \$1.2 million is available in this round of funding.

For more information, see the NYS Department of State's webpage at <http://www.dos.ny.gov/lq/nbrd/> or contact the Commission offices.

**Contact us at:****NYS Tug Hill Commission**

317 Washington St.  
Watertown, NY 13601

We are located on the 6th Floor of the  
Dulles State Office Building.

Phone: 315-785-2380  
Toll Free within the region:  
1-888-785-2380

Email:  
tughill@tughill.org  
Website:  
www.tughill.org

**Assisting communities and citizens for over 39 years.**



**Please help us reduce  
our costs and let us send  
you this newsletter  
electronically. Send an  
email request to  
gwen@tughill.org or call  
1-888-785-2380.  
Electronic versions  
appear in full color!**

## Article X Discussion Paper Available Online

The Otsego County Conservation Association recently published a discussion paper about Article X, the new Public Service Commission law regulating the siting of major electric generating facilities. The paper provides a thorough overview of the issue and should be a valuable resource for municipalities.

It can be accessed online at: <http://occainfo.org/documents/Article10DiscussionPaper.pdf>

## Windows XP Nears End of Service Life

Towns and villages frequently use computers until they no longer work. As a result, there are a lot of computers in municipal service which are still running Windows XP, which first went into use in 2001.

After April 8, 2014, Microsoft will no longer be supporting Windows XP. This means that Microsoft will no longer be releasing the updates which address security issues and other problems.

What does this mean? For towns, between now and the end of the summer, they should do an inventory of computers being used by the town, and identify which ones are still running Windows XP. When working on the town 2014 budget, the town should consider including funding to buy replacement computers between now and next April.

Villages, with their different fiscal year, should do the same inventory of computers, and consider replacements with the 2014 - 15 fiscal year, and earlier if possible. Villages should also be aware that their computers are potentially more vulnerable to security problems if they continue to be in service after April 8, 2014.

Computers which are old enough to be running Windows XP are old enough that they will generally not run newer versions of Windows without an upgrade, and are old enough that it is not economically feasible to upgrade the computer. Replacement is the preferred course of action.

For more information about end of service life for Windows XP, please see Microsoft's website, [www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/endsupport.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/endsupport.aspx). For more information about end of support for other versions of Microsoft operating systems, see <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/products/lifecycle>.

## GPS for K.I.D.S.S Summer Program

Carthage Central High School is doing a GPS Summer Program for students that live in the Carthage Central School District and attend school there. It will run from July 22<sup>nd</sup> – July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 8:00am – 12:00pm. There is a registration form that needs to be filled out by June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

If you know of a student who will be interested in attending this program or would like more information on it, please contact Mr. Pete Walsemann at the Carthage Central High School at 493-5030.