

Adirondack Council

Defending the Northeast's Last Great Wilderness

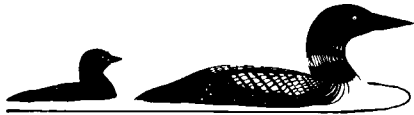
*Member Organizations: Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks,
Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Audubon,
National Parks & Conservation Association,
Natural Resources Defense Council, The Wilderness Society*



Better Access to Forest Preserve!

Inside...

- Five More Lakes Have Mercury
- New Acid Rain Kit for Schools
- Great News on Disabled Access
- New Board Members Elected
- APA Working on Cell Towers
- Legislature Fights Light Pollution
- Action Alert on Acid Rain
- Council Director Steps Down



Defending the Northeast's Last Great Wilderness

Dear Friends of the Adirondacks:

Welcome to the summer newsletter of the Adirondack Council. Inside these pages you will learn about many of the issues that will shape the future of the Adirondacks.

And there has been plenty of activity! From acid rain and the control of invasive plants to access for the disabled and the construction of new cell towers, you will find it in these pages. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and will consider joining the Adirondack Council if you are not already a member. See the back cover for more information about how you can join.

If you are already a member, I may be the first to inform you that our long-time executive director, Timothy J. Burke, has decided to move on after ten years with the Adirondack Council. Much has been accomplished by the Adirondack Council during his tenure.

In recent years, the Adirondack Council has been the leading voice for new controls on the pollution that causes acid rain. The Council has worked diligently to bring the need for new legislation to the attention of Congress. With your help, the Council's effort on acid rain may finally lead to action in the coming year. (See inside how you can help.)

Working together, we have also accomplished a great deal to further the protection of the Adirondack Park. The Council worked hard to ensure that the State of New York had the funding to pursue large land acquisitions to be added to the Forest Preserve in the Adirondacks. In the last decade, over 300,000 acres has been protected in the Adirondack Park by direct purchase for the Forest Preserve or by the use of conservation easements.

The Adirondack Council has also been working to foster economic sustainability for communities in the Park. With unemployment rates at a 30-year low, it is clear that the Park's health and beauty are not only a natural treasure but also a great economic asset to Adirondack communities.

The Council's role as the environmental watchdog of the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and New York's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has become even more important over the past ten years. The Council works to ensure that the APA protects the natural resources in the Park from harmful development and that the state-owned Forest Preserve lands are properly managed by the DEC.

We wish Tim all the best. He has assembled a very dedicated and talented staff, who together with the strong leadership of our Board of Directors and our enthusiastic membership, assure the continued success of the Adirondack Council.

Sincerely,

Bernard C. Melewski
Counsel & Acting Executive Director

On the Cover

Jabe Pond Road in the Lake George Wild Forest is one of those opened to the disabled for access by all-terrain vehicles and trucks in a court case in which the Adirondack Council played a pivotal role. The scene on the cover is what awaits the traveler at the other end. Jabe Pond is just west of Silver Bay in the Town of Hague. Turn the page for a complete rundown of the settlement's benefits for the disabled and for Wilderness protection in the Adirondack Park. Photo by Gary Randorf.



Board of Directors

Chair

David Skovron

Vice Chairs

David E. Bronston

Patricia D. Winterer

Treasurer

J. Edward Fowler

Secretary

Barbara L. Glaser

Etienne Boillot

Dean L. Cook

Joanne W. Dwyer

Betty Eldridge

John L. Ernst

Alyse Gray

Robert L. Hall

Gary F. Heurich

Theodore L. Hullar

George R. Lamb

Ernest B. LaPrairie

Douglas S. Luke, Jr.

Karen Meltzer

Scott L. Paterson

James S. Phillips

Richard L. Reinhold

Brian Ruder

Ellen Marshall Scholle

Carole Anne Slatkin

Thomas D. Thacher, II

William Weber

Staff

Acting Executive Director

Bernard C. Melewski

Lillia Anson

Julie Ball

Elaine Burke

Michael G. DiNunzio

Diane W. Fish

Lisa M. Genier

Kathy Kelley

Scott Lorey

Radmila Miletich

Joseph M. Moore

Gary A. Randorf

John F. Sheehan

Anne Trachtenberg

Linda Whalen

Our Mission

The Adirondack Council is an 18,000-member, privately funded not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting the natural character and communities of the Adirondack Park through research, education, advocacy and legal action.

Council Offers Free Acid Rain Multi-Media Education Package to Schools & Libraries

The Adirondack Council is offering free educational materials to teachers and librarians interested in providing information to their students and patrons about the most serious environmental issue facing the Adirondack Park today: acid rain.

Our acclaimed 22-page color booklet on acid rain's causes, symptoms and

potential solutions is the centerpiece of the package. Also included is a two-sided classroom poster developed in cooperation with Boreal Labs and Science Kit, Inc. especially for school science classes. It includes photographs of acid rain damage, as well as four lesson plans/worksheets on the back that can be photocopied on to standard 8.5 by 11 paper.

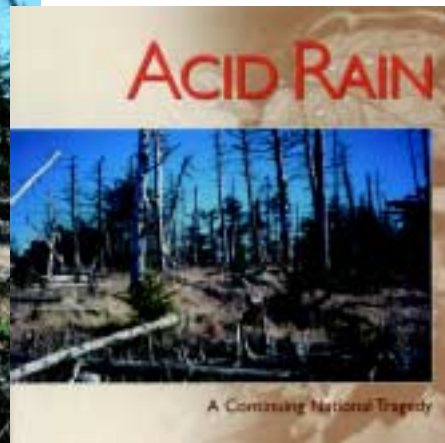
panded version of a program developed for the Public Broadcasting System and made possible by the Rivendell Foundation, which has been showing on PBS stations across the United States.

This expanded version goes into greater depth in describing the problems acid rain has caused in the forests, waters and alpine ecosystems of the Adirondack Park. It provides toll-free phone numbers for those seeking additional information.

The materials are suitable for students at the middle school level and higher. The video tapes will be available starting in September.

If your school or library could benefit from free materials on acid rain, call 1-800-842-7275 (from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday).

The newest addition to the package is an 8-minute video tape produced by American Environmental Review and funded by the Rivendell Foundation. It's an ex-

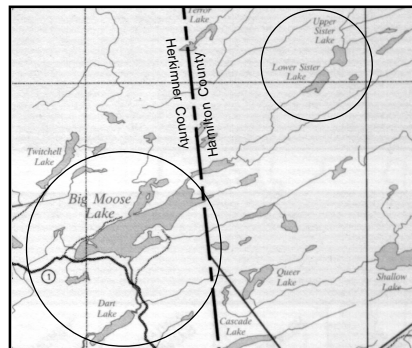


Five More Lakes Found Tainted With Mercury

Five more Adirondack lakes have been added to the list of those so profoundly contaminated with mercury that people should avoid eating the fish. The contamination is largely a product of acid rain.

The lakes include **Upper and Lower Sister Lakes**, Hamilton County, where yellow perch 10 inches and larger should be avoided; **Dart Lake**, Herkimer County, where yellow perch over 9 inches should be avoided; **Big Moose Lake**, Herkimer County, where yellow perch over 10 inches should be avoided;

Soft Maple Reservoir, Lewis County, where rock bass of any size should be avoided. All contained mercury levels



well above state health standards.

Mercury is one of the most toxic metals found in our environment. It causes internal organ damage, harms reproduction and fetal development and impairs both brain and nerve functions.

Mercury contamination has now been reported in 20 Adirondack lakes and ponds, but there may be many more affected. To date, the state has tested fish in only 25 percent of its surface waters for such contaminants.

There are two main reasons mercury

... Continued inside back cover





Lake George's south basin in July. The APA wants more information before making a decision on using pesticides to control Eurasian milfoil. Photo by John F. Sheehan.

Lake George Pesticide Plan on Hold

The Adirondack Park Agency in July voted to hold a formal public hearing this summer on an “experiment” to use chemical pesticides to kill Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake George. This chemical pesticide has never been allowed in the Adirondack Park.

The Adirondack Council had urged the APA to hold a formal hearing after the applicant admitted that the pesticide it plans to use will also kill rare and threatened native plants along with the milfoil. Even harming protected plants carries a \$25 fine per plant.

The Council wanted the APA to hold a public hearing to resolve this issue, and others, before the APA rules on the application. The adjudicatory hearing ordered in mid-July by the APA Board of Commissioners will allow the APA to gather sworn testimony, while allowing the Adirondack Council and other parties to cross examine consultants and expert witnesses.

The Council also cautioned the applicant that the Council would fight any attempt to loosen state health regulations that currently prevent the application of the pesticide near drinking water intakes. The applicant’s draft environmental impact statement makes it clear that talks were already underway to petition the NYS Health Department for permission to apply the pesticide Sonar in the southern basin of the lake. That’s where most of the milfoil is growing adjacent to a home or business, many of which draw water from the lake.

Unlike exotic invasive plants such as milfoil, native plants play an integral role in the lake’s ecosystem. Native plants

provide food and shelter to fish and other aquatic animals and are compatible with other native plants. They remove nutrients and other particles that can make the water cloudy.

Invasive exotics are non-native species accidentally transported to a new location. Eurasian watermilfoil was brought to Lake George in boats and trailers. Exotics sometimes out-compete

native plants and overtake their habitats. It is sometimes necessary for people to intervene to protect native plants. But the method chosen makes a world of difference.

The applicant for the APA pesticide permit is the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC). So far, the commission has employed only non-toxic methods -- hand harvesting, plastic mats, suction hoses and the like -- to control Eurasian watermilfoil. The LGPC has employed those methods very successfully for many years.

Eurasian milfoil has been present in Lake George since 1985. Thanks to the LGPC’s non-toxic methods, it covers less than 2 percent of the lake bottom.

The Adirondack Council has offered to work with the LGPC to find more money to continue the non-toxic harvesting and control methods. (The

Council believes that chemical pesticides are a last resort, to be used only when non-toxic alternatives have failed.) Instead, LGPC has continued to press for a permit to use pesticides.

The LGPC has argued that chemical pesticides (in this case, a fluridone-based product called Sonar) are less expensive than non-toxic controls. They require less labor and less planning.

On the other hand, they can kill much more than exotic milfoil.

There are 48 plants native to Lake George. Despite claims from the consultant that Sonar is safe, the applicant’s environmental impact statement admits that they have no data on what will happen to 32 of those 48 species when Sonar is applied.

There are at least six plants native to Lake George that are scarce enough to be protected under the state’s “rare, threatened and endangered” plants law. The applicant’s environmental impact statement provided no data on what the pesticide will do to at least five of them. Three of those five species are present in one or all of the proposed application areas in the lake.

The applicant wants the APA’s permission to kill them all.

At an April meeting, the applicant’s consultant declared: “If it’s a choice between killing milfoil and saving native species, we’ll choose killing milfoil.” The consultant recommended using more than 2,000 pounds of the chemical at four sites in Lake George.

Taking a broader view, the Council is concerned about the precedent of allowing chemical herbicides in any of the Parks’ 2,800 lakes and ponds.

‘If it’s a choice between killing milfoil and saving native species, we’ll choose killing milfoil.’
Pesticide consultant to Lake George Park Commission, April 2001



Settlement: Better Access for Disabled & Better Protection for Wilderness

The Adirondack Council obtained significant new protections for the Forest Preserve, while also providing new opportunities for people with disabilities to gain access to the Park's wildest places, when it settled a long legal battle in July.

Three people with disabilities who wanted greater vehicular access to the Adirondack Forest Preserve had sued the Department of Environmental Conservation, the governor and a host of others.

The Adirondack Council and other environmentalists joined as parties to the lawsuit, hoping to protect sensitive areas of the Forest Preserve from harmful motorized traffic.

The settlement had something for everyone. It was a far cry from what the plaintiffs originally wanted, but it showed that reasonable accommodations can be made for the disabled without degrading the natural environment.

The Council and other environmental intervenors:

- Helped to prevent a wholesale opening of the Forest Preserve to motorized traffic.

- Reduced motorized vehicle use by state officials in areas off-limits to public traffic.

- Ensured that the state would not issue permits to the public for vehicle use in Wilderness and other off-limits areas.

- Ensured that state personnel will keep track of all their trips into restricted areas and report those trips to the Adirondack Park Agency quarterly.

- Ensured that the state will halt its illegal practice of allowing private clubs and towns to bulldoze and widen foot paths in the Forest Preserve to accommodate snowmobile traffic.

- Required that any decision to reconstruct or open roads for vehicle use be justified through the state's formal Unit Management Plan process, where the public is allowed input.

The disabled will have much-im-

proved access for hunting and fishing. **New facilities will be built at boat launches and campgrounds to provide easier access to areas that are heavily used by the disabled.**

Plaintiffs in the case had originally sued the state for millions of dollars in damages and sought to open hundreds of miles of roads and trails, some in Wilderness Areas, to motorized traffic. They sued in U.S. District Court in Albany, claiming a violation of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. The lawsuit was filed in 1997, shortly after the DEC revised its policy for disabled access to the Forest Preserve.

The old system required a handicapped person to prove his or her disability to a DEC employee through an arcane test before obtaining a special vehicle use permit. It required the applicant to specify a location, duration of stay and the purpose for the trip.

The 1997 version of the policy allowed qualified applicants to use any road already designated for handicapped use any time the road was open (some close seasonally when they become impassable with snow or mud).

The Council was concerned that a federal court might not be as vehement about protecting the Forest Preserve as state courts have been, and sided with DEC in trying to prevent a harmful expansion of motorized traffic.

But in the course of investigating the plaintiffs' complaints, the Council discovered that DEC had been handing out illegal permits for vehicle use for years. In addition, DEC's own personnel were driving into restricted areas on a regular basis.



Lily Pond in the Lake George Wild Forest is now open to ATVs driven by disabled persons holding a DEC permit. Photo by Gary Randorf.

The Council and the other environmental groups decided that we could not allow DEC to continue issuing illegal permits. Consequently, the groups filed a cross claim against the state, arguing that the illegal permits must be stopped. The federal judge essentially referred the case to state court. DEC then revised its policy before a state court suit was commenced. DEC centralized the issuance of all permits through the Albany headquarters, placed strict limits on DEC's own use of vehicles and created a quarterly reporting program overseen by the APA.

Six roads previously opened to the handicapped by the judge will remain open. Camp Santanoni Road, which had been opened by the judge earlier in the case, will be closed again. As the Council had recommended, the DEC will make arrangements with a local horse-drawn wagon service to bring disabled people down the road and into the woods north of Newcomb for free. DEC has also agreed to provide state personnel who will assist the disabled in reaching Wilderness without motors.





The Adirondack Council sponsors a variety of outdoor educational and recreational trips for Council supporters. **Above**, board member Ed Fowler sets up a photo shoot on a trip in the Champlain Valley. **Above right**, in the Split Rock tract with the Council's world-renowned landscape photographer Gary Randorf, Eve Bogle and staff member Diane Fish soak in the view. **Right**, Jack Bogle, with his combination walking stick and camera stand, (left) and Reg Bedell. **Left**, Ruth Skovron, board member Ed Fowler, Margot Ernst and board member John Ernst, and board member Gary Heurich arrive for the annual meeting. All photos by Julie Ball.



Below, Council Chairman David Skovron prepares to address the members. **Bottom left**, the next generation of members. **Bottom right**, Adirondack Life staff member Jo'el Kramer and friend Charlie Wilson enjoy the awards dinner. Photos by Julie Ball.



Council

E

Each year members gather for a fun presentation from the program team.

This summer, Elizabethtown and the progress and efforts to eliminate Preserve through action.

Over on meeting, hosted for, at his home in Lake Champlain the Park and on enjoy a morning in the vicinity with the High Peaks and of sunshine in

Following Awards Dinner individuals and particularly effective environmental





Members Gather Each Summer

Members of the Adirondack Council and informative meeting with pre-all members of the Council's pro-

On July 14, staff members from the and Albany offices, reviewed both d obstacles in the Council's recent ate acid rain, and protect the Forest gh advocacy, education and legal

One hundred members attended the l by Gary Randorf, Senior Counse- e in Whallonsburg, New York near . Early arrivals traveling from across outside the Blue Line were able to ng walk on the quiet roads in the pectacular views of the Adirondack clouds giving way to the first day weeks.

g the Annual Meeting, the Annual allowed the Council to recognize organizations that have been par- ve advocates for Adirondack Park concerns during the last year.

Adirondack Council Board Members Elected at Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Adirondack Council is comprised of twenty-six volunteers who dedicate their time, expertise and financial support to the Adirondack Council. Each summer, at the annual meeting, board members who have concluded their terms leave the board and new candidates are voted in. We acknowledge with great appreciation the contributions of Alison Clarkson, Katharine Preston, Avery Rockefeller III, Jack Ryder, Jr., and Curt Welling, who completed their service this year.

New Directors include:

John Ernst former Board Chair (1995-1999) and current Co-Chair of the Campaign for the Forever Wild Fund, returns to the board after a term-limit mandated year off. John continues a family tradition of conservation advocacy in the Adirondacks that began with his grandfather, who in the early 60s, donated the first conservation easement in New York State on land surrounding Elk Lake. John Ernst divides his time between Elk Lake Lodge in the Adirondacks and New York City, where he is a private investor. Mr. Ernst has served as a Director since 1982 (with the exception of 2000-2001). He serves on numerous non-profit boards including the New York League of Conservation Voters.



Ted Hullar is director of higher education at Atlantic Philanthropies. Mr. Hullar's long history in the field of environmental research and academic administration includes his role as chancellor of the University of California at Davis (1987-94), and professor of toxicology and coordinator of the University of California Economic Development Initiative. In the 1970s, Mr. Hullar served as deputy commissioner for programs and research at the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, and served as a professor and administrator at Cornell University from 1979 -1984.

Doug Luke is President and Chief Executive Officer of HL Capital, Inc. with offices in New York City and San Francisco. He lives in Pine Plains, NY and Keene Valley, NY. An Adirondack Council member since 1989, he shares the Council's commitment to programs in advocacy and education to protect the Adirondacks. He is a former Chairman and Board President of the Adirondack Mountain Reserve.



Karen Meltzer has been an owner and director of Brant Lake Camp since the 1960s. Now "semi-retired," she remains involved with the camping world through association boards including terms as vice-president and then treasurer of the American Camping Association, and two terms as President of the New York State Camp Directors Association. She is involved in many Adirondack organizations and served two terms as president of the Brant Lake Association.

Jamie Phillips lives in Essex, New York and Fallbrook, California. As co-founder and director of the Eddy Foundation, Mr. Phillips is active in the preservation of wildlands, organic agriculture, and in biodiversity issues. In addition, he is a fund manager, focusing on promoting socially responsible and angel investment. He is also an accomplished photographer and artist.



Carole Anne Slatkin lives in Essex, New York. She is a former editor of *American Birds* magazine, served as project editor for *North American Fossils*, *North American Seashore Creatures* and co-authored the book *John James Audubon: The Watercolors for the Birds of America*. Ms. Slatkin is also a former director of Public Programs for the New York Historical Society.

Bill Weber, Ph.D. has twenty-five years of experience in international wildlife conservation. He currently serves as director of North America Programs for the Wildlife Conservation Society, and is responsible for dozens of projects from Alaska to the Adirondacks, addressing issues from lynx and wolf recovery to fire ecology, ecotourism and community-based conservation. Bill and his wife Amy Vedder recently wrote a book about their work in Rwanda, *In the Kingdom of Gorillas*, to be published by Simon & Schuster in October 2001.



Park Agency Struggles With Towers



Some cell tower proposals claim the builders can disguise towers nearing 200 feet in height among trees half that size. This Marquill cartoon from the *Sunday Post-Star*, of Glens Falls, ran April 29. Reprinted with permission.

Faced with a host of new proposals for telecommunications towers throughout the Park, the Adirondack Park Agency is attempting to update its 1978 Communications Towers Policy.

The policy governs the siting of towers. It requires those wishing to erect transmitters and receivers in the Park to co-locate on existing towers whenever possible and requires that towers be “substantially invisible.”

Due to changing technology and the proliferation of cell phones in recent years, the Park has been under increasing pressure to host new tower sites. Local officials claim that having these towers amounts to a safety issue. Some even claim that one hundred percent coverage must be provided in the Park.

Cell service providers often seek to locate their facilities on hilltops to get the most coverage per tower built. But, that leads to problems when those who enjoy the Adirondacks for

their wild and natural character are confronted with a shiny steel structure in the midst of an otherwise natural landscape. A casual look at the hilltops along the Adirondack Northway, south of the Adirondack Park, shows what could happen inside the Park as well, as communications towers become the most prominent visible feature.

The agency requested proposals from planning and engineering firms to get help in researching current technology and revamping its old policy on the siting of towers. It hired the LA Group of Saratoga Springs (the only group to respond) to help research the agency’s policy, compare it with the policies of other municipalities and regional planning authorities and draft a new agency policy.

The Council and some APA commissioners objected to the choice of the LA Group, since the firm often represents tower applicants (and in fact, is currently representing a Vermont radio

station seeking to erect a large tower in Willsboro). We suggested that the agency put the proposal back out to bid.

The Council did prevail upon the agency to have any new draft policy from the LA Group “peer reviewed” by other governmental, planning and academic institutions.

One troublesome trait that has begun to emerge in recent applications is the use of making a commercial operation seem like a public safety necessity. A phone, TV or radio company applies for an APA permit to build a tower. The applicant tells the local ambulance and fire department that it will provide space on the tower for

those services.

When the commercial operator applies for a permit, the possibility of adding public safety equipment acts as a foil for thorough review.

The New York State Office for Technology is currently reworking the state’s emergency services network in a new initiative known as the Statewide Wireless Network. Local emergency service providers will be able to use those facilities and frequencies. The new network will use existing tower sites and will be implemented within the next couple of years. The Council has urged the APA to require every entity that will be located on a tower to be a co-applicant in the permitting process.

We have also urged the state to expedite plans for the Statewide Wireless Network, which will eliminate the need for individual towns or counties to come to the agency with their own emergency services tower proposals. In addition, the APA has begun placing a condition on permits that allows it to remove towers that fall idle for six months.



Legislature Deals With Light Pollution, Land Swap, Town Finances

The NYS Legislature passed a bill in June that would limit the use of outdoor lighting in certain areas of the state and would require state agencies to replace their outdoor fixtures with energy-efficient equipment as old fixtures wear out.

The bill will help prevent acid rain and air pollution by reducing electricity use, while providing relief to wildlife and insects for whom outdoor lighting is dangerous. It would also allow the state to designate dark zones to provide better viewing of the night sky.

The bill would allow the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation to establish certain "dark areas" of the state that are especially suitable for stargazing and for the habitat of animals and plants that thrive in natural darkness. If the governor signs the bill, DEC will prepare a plan regarding the designation and preservation of these areas and submit the plan to the Legislature and the governor.

In the Adirondacks, the Council has worked with the Adirondack Nature Conservancy to protect the Clintonville Pine Barren, in Clinton County, where a rare species of moth was almost wiped out by residential development and outdoor lighting.

The pine barren is home to *Lithophane lepida lepida*, a moth that has been driven out of nearly every other suitable habitat in the state. When the Council informed the media of this in 1992, Council members from Buffalo stepped forward with a donation to the Conservancy that allowed it to buy the core of the pine barren and to start a program to preserve as much of the rest as possible. When exposed to artificial lights at night, the moth is drawn to the light, stops feeding and dies.

In other business, the Legislature passed bills designed to allow small towns more financial autonomy and to allow the land swap in Keene Valley approved by voters in 1995 to move ahead.

Financial Autonomy

Both houses passed a bill in June that would allow more Adirondack towns to borrow money without the NYS Comptroller's approval. Current law imposes unnecessary administrative and financial burdens on small towns.

The comptroller's review of town finances is triggered once the proportion of state lands located within the town reaches 10 percent of the town's taxable value.

The bill would increase that proportion to 30 percent. That would allow towns such as Altamont, in Franklin County, to raise and spend capital project money without state permission. Altamont recently urged the state not to purchase a parcel of land offered by Tupper Lake business Oval Wood Dish, citing the comptroller's review as a reason for objecting to the purchase.

Financial transactions covered by this bill include activities involving capital reserve funds, repair reserve funds, snow and ice removal and road repair reserve funds, capital reserve funds for fire districts, reserve funds for the payment of bonds, reserve funds for school districts, activities involving the issuance of bonds, and the letting of contracts.

Keene Land Swap

Also in June, both houses of the Legislature approved technical corrections that will allow the exchange of lands between the state and the Town of Keene. The exchange was approved by the voters in November 1995. These corrections reconciled the language of the law with that of the deeds. The changes were recommended by DEC and the Attorney General's office as necessary to complete the land exchange.

The swap will allow the town to give the state more than 140 acres along the Ausable River in exchange for 12 acres of state land adjacent to the town cemetery.



John F. Sheehan

New Bridge Planned Over Great Sacandaga

The NYS Dept. of Transportation is collecting comments on its plans to replace the Batchellerville Bridge over the Great Sacandaga Lake, in the Town of Edinburg, Saratoga County. The Council is carefully monitoring the bridge replacement process and will work with local residents to help create an environmentally sound facility that meets the needs of the lake community.

The current bridge was built in 1930, just after the lake was created by damming the Sacandaga River above its confluence with the Hudson. In 1931, the Adirondack Park was expanded by 1.6 million acres, which included the new reservoir. The name was changed from Sacandaga Reservoir to Great Sacandaga Lake in the 1970s. The lake was created to provide flood control for the Hudson Valley between Waterford and the tidal estuary south of Albany. It also generates hydro power from the Stewart and Conklingville dams.

At 3,078 feet, the Batchellerville bridge is by far the longest span in the Adirondack Park. The bridge connects the town of Edinburg's northern and southern portions, which were split when the river valley was inundated. It provides access to Northville, Edinburg Town Hall and Edinburg's commercial district from the southern shore of the lake. Due to its deteriorating condition, the bridge's weight limit was long ago reduced to five tons or less, so traffic is light and quiet. That may change.



Tell Congress Acid Rain Must Stop Now!

• Action Alert • Action Alert • Action Alert • Action Alert • Action Alert •

Both houses of Congress will be contemplating legislation this fall concerning national energy policies and air pollution. This is Congress's best chance in a decade to finally make pollution cuts deep enough to stop the destruction wrought by acid rain.

Despite more than 109 years of careful stewardship by New Yorkers, the Adirondack Park is being destroyed from afar. Acid rain falling on the Park is routinely 400 times more acidic than untainted rainfall. More than 500 lakes and ponds are already too acidic to support their native life. Our mountaintop forests are being destroyed at an alarming rate.

Every recent federal acid rain study has reached the same conclusion. Time is rapidly running out. Within the life time of almost everyone reading this page, acid rain will have killed half, or more, of the Adirondack Park's 2,800 lakes and ponds. By then, so much of the Park's natural buffering capacity will be gone. For several weeks each spring, melting winter snows packed with acidity will cause every river in the Park to be too acidic for its native life.

New York can't stop the problem on its own. Most of the smokestack pollution that causes acid rain in the Adirondacks comes from outside New York State. We need Congress's help and a national solution.

The good news is that the solution (an additional 50 percent cut in sulfur-dioxide emissions from power plants and a 70 percent cut in nitrogen oxides from those same plants) is affordable and perfectly feasible using current technology. It won't cause blackouts or price hikes. In short, there is no reason to wait.

* * * * *

Tell your U.S. Congressional reps and U.S. Senators not to let another summer go by without a solution to the acid rain crisis!

The address, phone number and email address of each of the key officials is listed at right.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-NY

Hart Senate Office Building, Ste. 313
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-6542
senator@schumer.senate.gov

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-NY

Russell Senate Office Building, Ste. 476
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4451
senator@clinton.senate.gov

Sen. James Jeffords, I-VT.

Chair of Environment & Public Works
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Ste. 410
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-8832
vermont@senate.jeffords.gov

Sen. Thomas Daschle, D-SD

Majority Leader
Hart Senate Office Building, Ste. 509
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-2321
tom_daschle@daschle.senate.gov

U.S. Rep. W.J. "Billy" Tauzin, R-LA

Chair Energy & Commerce Committee
Rayburn House Office Building, Ste. 2183
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-4031

U.S. Rep. J. Dennis Hastert, R-IL

Speaker of the House
Rayburn House Office Building, Ste. 2369
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-2976
dhastert@mail.house.gov

U.S. Rep. Vito Fossella, R-NYC

House Energy Committee
Longworth House Ofc. Building, Ste. 1239
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3371
vito.fossella@mail.house.gov

U.S. Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, R-Utica

House Science Committee Chair
Rayburn House Office Building, Ste. 2246
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3665
rep.boehlert@mail.house.gov

U.S. Rep. John McHugh, R-Watertown

(Represents western Adirondacks)
Rayburn House Office Building, Ste. 2441
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4611
ny24@legislators.com

U.S. Rep. John Sweeney, R-Glens Falls

(Represents eastern Adirondacks)
Canon House Office Building, Ste. 416
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-5614
john.sweeney@mail.house.gov



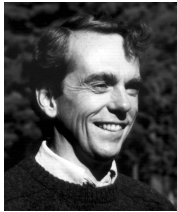
Milestones Along the Trail

Burke Steps Down After Decade as ED

Adirondack Council Executive Director Timothy J. Burke has stepped down after more than 10 years at the helm of the Adirondack Park's largest and most influential environmental organization.

"We are truly saddened by Tim's departure," said David Skovron, Chairman of the Adirondack Council's Board of Directors. "But he leaves behind him an organization that has grown in influence and thrived financially under his guidance. He has built and sustained the finest professional staff in the environmental community and embarked on a capital campaign to ensure that the organization's future is secure."

"Tim has built a reputation as a hard-nosed environmental advocate who was always willing to seek and encourage opportunities for sustainable economic development in the Park's villages and



hamlets," said Adirondack Council staff attorney Bernard C. Melewski. "His legacy in the Adirondacks will consist of his indispensable role, not just in the protection of hundreds of thousands of acres of Adirondack forests, lakes and rivers, but also in the creation of community development funds and new jobs throughout the Park."

"It has been a great ten years for me," said Burke. "The Adirondack Council is a wonderful organization."

Burke, 53, joined the Council as executive director in May of 1991, after serving two terms as a Vermont state legislator and serving as Vermont's Commissioner of Environmental Conservation. Staff attorney Bernard C. Melewski will serve as acting director.

Harold Jerry Remembered

The Council mourns the loss in June of former Council Chairman and long-time board member Harold A. Jerry, Jr.

A former NYS Senator, Mr. Jerry served for three decades as a member

of the NYS Public Service Commission. In 1968, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller appointed him to lead the effort that created the Adirondack Park Agency -- the nation's first regional planning and land-use regulatory agency.

Mr. Jerry served as a passionate advocate for the Adirondack Park's health and natural character. He also served on the boards of the Adirondack Nature Conservancy/Land Trust and the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks.

Roberts Reappointed

Katherine O. Roberts of Garrison was reappointed to a four-year term on the Adirondack Park Agency board of commissioners and confirmed by the NYS Senate in June.

The Council expressed gratitude to Gov. George Pataki for reappointing Roberts, whose service to the agency has been splendid.



Mercury

Continued from third page...

is tainting fish populations in New York. The same coal-fired power plant smokestacks that cause acid rain drop mercury on the Park's lands and waters as well. At the same time, acidic waters break down the chemical bonds that keep organic mercury safely encapsulated in other compounds, allowing the mercury to break free and become suspended in the water.

Only those Adirondack waters tainted by acid rain have been found to have fish contaminated with mercury.

While the levels of mercury in the water are not high enough to pose a risk to people through skin absorption, mercury slowly builds up in the flesh of the fish who live in the waters over a period of years. Fish that eat other fish accumulate mercury even faster. Yellow perch and rock bass are voracious carnivores.

In 2000, the Adirondack Council persuaded the Legislature to increase the Health Department's budget sufficiently to double the pace at which lakes are tested for mercury. The Council will continue to fight acid rain.

Other Adirondack lakes known to have fish contaminated with mercury include:

Beaver Lake, Lewis County, pickerel (all).

Carry Falls Reservoir, St. Lawrence Co, walleye (all).

Cranberry Lake, St. Lawrence Co., smallmouth bass (all).

Ferris Lake, Hamilton Co., yellow perch (over 12").

Fourth Lake, Herkimer & Hamilton Cos., lake trout (all).

Francis Lake, Lewis Co., yellow perch (all).

Halfmoon Lake, Lewis Co., yellow perch (all).

Indian Lake, Lewis Co., all species, all sizes.

Lake Champlain, entire lake, lake trout (over 25") and walleye (over 19").

Meacham Lake, Franklin Co., yellow perch (over 12").

Moshier Reservoir, Herkimer Co., yellow perch (all).

Round Pond, Town of Long Lake, Hamilton Co., yellow perch (over 12").

Schroon Lake, Warren & Essex Cos., lake trout (over 27"), yellow perch (over 13") and smallmouth bass (all).

Stillwater Reservoir, Herkimer Co., yellow perch (over 9"), smallmouth bass (all) and splake (all).

Sunday Lake, Herkimer Co., yellow perch (all).



Like what you're reading?

Join the Adirondack Council today!

Founded in 1975, the Adirondack Council is a privately funded, not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the natural character and communities of the Adirondack Park, through research, education, advocacy and legal action.

The Council receives moral and financial support

from its more than 18,000 members and from private foundations.

Adirondack Council memberships begin at \$25. Membership benefits include regular newsletters, special reports, action alerts and the opportunity to play an active role in protecting the Park's future.

Sign Me Up!

You can count on me to protect our nation's magnificent Adirondack Park for future generations. Enclosed is my gift to save endangered wildlife and preserve irreplaceable habitat in this priceless American resource:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25* Other \$ _____

* For your gift of \$25 or more, you'll receive full membership in The Adirondack Council — plus your FREE deluxe 160-page Adirondack Wildguide, a wonderfully illustrated natural history of the Adirondacks; or, our unique poster/map of the Park, with brilliant paintings of the Park's major ecosystems around the outside!

Your contribution is tax-deductible except for the \$16.95 retail value of the Wildguide or the \$20 retail value of the poster/map.

Please send: _____ Adirondack Wildguide _____ Council Poster/Map
_____ Nothing - use entire gift for the Council's work

VISA/MC # _____ Expires _____ Phone # (____) _____

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make your check payable to
THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL
and return it with this form to:
PO Box D-2
Elizabethtown, NY 12932

A copy of the latest financial statement and annual report may be obtained from The Adirondack Council, PO Box D-2, Elizabethtown, NY 12932, 518-873-2240 or from the Charities Bureau, Department of Law, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. If you are a resident of the following states, you may obtain registration and financial information directly by writing or calling: Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis MD 21401, (410) 974-5534 (documents and information submitted under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available, for the cost of postage and copies); Mississippi Secretary of State, 1-888-236-6167; Attorney General of the State of New Jersey, 973-504-6215; Virginia State Office of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, PO Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218; Washington Secretary of State, 1-800-332-4483. Registration with any of these governmental agencies does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by these states. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Financial information about The Adirondack Council and a copy of its license are available from the North Carolina State Solicitation Licensing Section at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State. The official registration and financial information of The Adirondack Council may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, West Virginia 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.



The Adirondack Council
PO Box D-2, Two Church Street
Elizabethtown, NY 12932

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Burlington, VT 05401
Permit No. 601