



August 8, 2014

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The Tug Hill Commission will hold its next meeting on Monday, September 8, 2014, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Albion, NY. Location TBA in our next issue.

Save the date!

**SuperCOG
Meeting
September 30th**

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.

Celebrating Gerry!

Friends, family and colleagues gathered on July 31st at Erwin Park in Boonville to celebrate the many contributions Gerry Ritter has made during her 20 year career with the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments and Tug Hill Commission. Gerry has officially retired from her position and now plans on spending quality time with her family including her husband Larry, mother, children and grandchildren. She also plans to take a scenic train ride, a gift from her husband, and to reap a bountiful harvest from her large vegetable garden!

Gerry was presented with a collage of prints from her friends, family and colleagues. The photos, one of the Black River in Forestport, one of Black Creek near Forestport, and one entitled "The Road to Heaven" taken on Lake Julia Road in Remsen, symbolize the beauty of the area Gerry served and the many days and nights of travel she put in during her career.



Gerry standing with her sons Ben (left) and Jason (right). Seated is Gerry's mother Betty.

We will miss you, Gerry! Warmest wishes as you start the next chapter!



Gerry Ritter receiving her certificate of outstanding service from John Dorion (middle) NOCCOG Chair, and John Bartow (left) Tug Hill Commission Executive Director.

New York Sea Grant Offers Grant Program

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New York Sea Grant (NYSG) in partnership with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is requesting proposals for projects that serve to benefit the environment and economy of New York's Great Lakes basin by demonstrating the application of ecosystem-based management (EBM) to local challenges. This small grants program is made possible by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund and Article 14 of Environmental Conservation Law. Proposals due by 4:30 pm September 30, 2014. Application guidance webinars are being offered at noon on August 26 and September 2, 2014.

This year, NYSG is soliciting proposals (up to \$25,000) for projects that implement Goal #7 of the Great Lakes Action Agenda to "enhance community resiliency and ecosystem integrity through restoration, protection, and improved resource management." It is anticipated that four proposals will be funded totaling around \$88,000. Consistent with the actions listed under this goal, projects that contribute to improved shoreline management, flooding avoidance, erosion control and planning for future coastal resilience will be preferred. Eligible projects may include planning, evaluation, assessment, project implementation, demonstration projects and/or applied research to support management actions and address the following focus areas:

- Natural infrastructure/living shoreline protection techniques
- Coastal wetland monitoring and restoration activities
- Green infrastructure directly related to improving coastal resiliency
- Community stewardship and education initiatives
- Coastal property/ecosystem vulnerability analyses
- Economic and social analyses of the value of resiliency measures

Proposals will be accepted from the following entities which are located in New York's Great Lakes Basin:

- Not-for-profit organizations,
- Local governmental or public agencies, such as municipalities and regional planning or environmental commissions; and,
- Educational institutions, including, but not limited to, public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and Universities.

More information, including the application package, is available at <http://www.nysgproposal.org/>.

"Sharing Public Safety and Public Works" White Paper

The Center for Governmental Research recently posted a white paper on their website entitled "*Sharing Public Safety and Public Works: Overcoming skepticism to optimize services.*"

The paper's abstract reads: "This white paper is for elected officials, administrators, and departmental decision-makers in local governments who are looking to optimize efficiency and service delivery for the residents and taxpayers they serve.

For most local governments, public safety (esp. police and fire) and public works are their largest cost centers. As fiscal pressures mount, these two services are increasingly feeling the budgetary squeeze, forcing municipalities to reassess what services they deliver and how.

Complicating the issue is the fact that public safety and public works are among the most critical functions local governments provide – in many ways, the "face" of the local government. This often drives skepticism and fear, with many communities disinclined to change these crucial services even though changes such as shared approaches or internal reorganizations may yield more effective and efficient services.

To address service optimization in these areas, municipal leaders need to acknowledge the emotional underpinnings of public safety and the "touch, see and feel" factor of public works, and create a well-defined, interactive and transparent process to explore efficiency opportunities."

The full paper can be found here: <http://www.cgr.org/docs/CGRGovWorksWhitePaper2.pdf>

CGR is a non-profit based out of Rochester, NY. Its mission is to inform and empower leaders driving public policy action or organization change.

Renewable Heat NY Offers Incentives for Wood Heating Systems

The New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) has announced its new Renewable Heat NY program. The program provides varying incentives for residential, commercial - small and commercial - large, customers toward the installed costs of high-efficiency, low-emission wood heating systems. Each category has specific program requirements, details can be found at <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/renewableheatny>. For all categories, the applicant must NOT have access to natural gas at the proposed installation location. A summary table of the categories is provided below.

| CUSTOMER TYPE | SYSTEM TYPE/TECHNOLOGY | INCENTIVE AMOUNT |
|--------------------|---|--|
| RESIDENTIAL | <u>Wood Pellet Stove</u> | \$1,000 (up to \$1,500 for income qualified homeowners) |
| | <u>Advanced Cordwood Boiler with Thermal Storage</u> | Up to \$8,000 based on 20% of installed cost up to \$4,000 with an additional \$4,000 for the recycling of old outdoor/indoor wood boiler. |
| COMMERCIAL - SMALL | <u>Advanced Cordwood Boiler with Thermal Storage</u> | Up to \$8,000 based on 20% of installed cost up to \$4,000 with an additional \$4,000 for the recycling of old outdoor/indoor wood boiler. |
| | <u>Small Pellet Boiler with Thermal Storage</u> Less than 300 MBtu/h (88 kW) | 25% of total installed cost up to \$20,000 based on size |
| COMMERCIAL - LARGE | <u>Large Pellet Boiler with Thermal Storage</u> More than 300 MBtu/h (88 kW) | 20% of total installed cost (\$100,000 maximum incentive) |
| | <u>Tandem Pellet Boiler with Thermal Storage</u> More than 300 MBtu/h (88 kW) | 25% of total installed cost (\$150,000 maximum incentive) |

Upcoming Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust Events

West Branch of Fish Creek Paddle

Date: Saturday, August 9th

Time: 10am-12pm

Place: West Branch of Fish Creek, Westdale

Description: Spend the morning paddling on the West Branch of Fish Creek in Westdale. The calm and meandering stream is perfect for paddlers of all ages. You must have your own kayak or canoe and a PFD. Participants should bring water and lunch. Snacks provided. **FREE**



Old Growth Hike

Date: Saturday, September 27th

Time: 10am-1pm

Place: Osceola Cross Country Ski Center

Description: Have you ever wondered how old the trees are on Tug Hill? If so, join us on a hike through the old growth forests. Learn about the flora and fauna, search for salamanders, and view a beaver flow. The hike is moderate with a distance of 4 miles round trip, off-trail. **FREE**



More information on Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust's website: <http://tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/>

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

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Algae Blooms and Recreation

There have been several reports of algae blooms causing swimming beaches to close this summer, most recently on Oneida Lake on both the north and south shores. Normally, algae blooms are harmless and are an important part of the food web. Algae are naturally present in slow moving streams, lakes, marine waters and ponds in low numbers. Certain types can become abundant and form blooms under the right conditions. Some algae can produce toxins that can be harmful to people and animals. These are collectively called harmful algal blooms (HABs). HAB's are primarily caused by excessive inputs of nutrients (phosphorus) primarily due to agricultural operations, wastewater treatment system discharges, and storm water/urban runoff.

Algae blooms most frequently occur in nutrient-rich waters, particularly during hot, calm weather. Because it is hard to tell a harmful algal bloom from other algae blooms, avoiding contact with any floating rafts, scums, and discolored water is recommended. If contact with algae occurs, wash with soap and rinse thoroughly. Seek medical attention if needed if symptoms such as vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, skin, eye or throat irritation, allergic reactions or breathing difficulties occur while in contact with untreated surface waters.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, in cooperation with the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, New York State Department of Health, the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and trained volunteers through the Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program, monitor lakes for the presence of algae blooms and DEC posts reports of confirmed HAB's. The list is routinely updated on the NYSDEC website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html>.



Blue Green algae blooms may look like pea soup or spilled paint.

Champion Wastewater Funding

The Town of Champion recently received an announcement from Senator Charles E. Schumer and Kristen Gillibrand that USDA has awarded the town \$500,000 to construct and expand new wastewater lines. According to Terry Buckley, Supervisor, the new wastewater system will support future growth & development while reducing the cost to provide municipal service to local residents, school/s and businesses. Likewise, Senators Schumer & Gillibrand emphasized the importance of investing in infrastructure to support community & economic development while holding the line on local property taxes.

CTHC Fall Dinner Meeting

Thursday September 18th, 2014 at the Central Hotel in Glenfield.

Invitations with details will be going out soon. Anyone with questions can contact CTHC Circuit Rider Angie Kimball at angela@tughill.org or 480-6857.