

DECEMBER 1, 2017

Four Villages Join CTHC

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) is the oldest of the Tug Hill region's council of governments. Originally consisting of nine towns, the council gradually grew to the current total of sixteen towns located in the core of Tug Hill. The four villages located within the CTHC towns have never been members of CTHC.

At the annual spring and fall meetings since 2014, the town representatives to the council have discussed inviting the villages within the CTHC area to join. Initially a letter of invitation was sent out to each village and when that didn't bring the desired response, the council approved to have circuit rider Angie Kimball approach the villages personally to better explain the services offered by the council and answer any questions.

In the spring of 2017, meetings of the villages of Lyons Falls and Port Leyden were attended and following the meetings both approved to join CTHC. It has been very exciting to work with these two busy villages and learn about their projects and interests first hand.

In November, the monthly meetings of the final two CTHC villages of Constableville and Turin were attended to present information on the council and we are thrilled to announce that both of these villages have approved to join CTHC as well. Circuit rider coverage will begin in these two villages at their December meetings.

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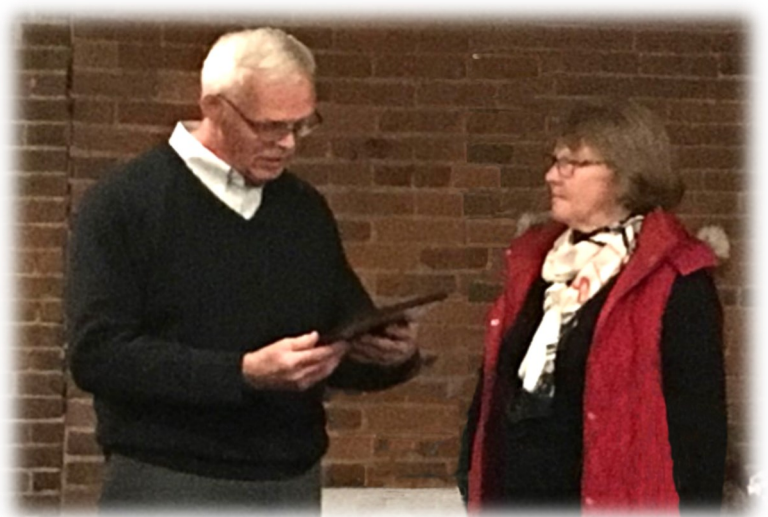
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Kathy Amyot Retires After 17 Years

Community members, commission board members and staff, as well as past co-workers, gathered on November 30 at Maggie's in Watertown to celebrate Kathy Amyot's retirement. Kathy provided service to the River Area Council of Governments for the past 17 years, since their formation in 2000.

Kathy was presented with a certificate from the commission and a plaque from RACOG, was presented by chair Wayne McIlroy. She was also given a canvas print of a fall scene on the Black River taken from Riverbend Park in West Carthage, commemorating all the work she did that revolved around the Black River.

Congratulations Kathy and best of luck as you start a new chapter on your life's journey!



Commission Meeting December 11

The last commission board meeting of 2017 will be held on Monday, December 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the 11th floor of the Dulles State Office Building, Watertown. The public is always welcome to attend, there is a public comment period at the end of the meeting. Discussion items will include the Tug Hill book project, the 2018 commission calendar, council of governments' reports, and other routine business. If interested in attending, please RSVP to gwen@tughill.org by December 7.

Distressed and Abandoned Properties: Dealing with the Problem Head-On

Presented by Wade Beltramo New York Conference Of Mayors General Counsel

Monday, December 11, 2017 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. . Herkimer College. Robert McLaughlin College Center at the Hummel Corporate & Professional Center, Room #288—The Amphitheater

For more information and to register, go to <http://lgec.org/content/Generic/View/22>.

2017 County-Wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan

The County-Wide Shared Services Initiative law was enacted in early 2018 to prompt counties and municipalities to reduce property taxes while improving local government efficiency. The law requires counties to convene a shared services panel consisting of the chief executive of all towns, villages, and cities in each county, as well as the option of school districts, to develop taxpayer savings and efficiency plans.

According to a report done by the Rockefeller Institute of Government, Center for Technology in Government, and The Benjamin Center SUNY New Paltz, the plans produced a range of proposals for property tax savings in 12 main areas: public health and insurance; emergency services; sewer, water, and waste management systems; energy procurement; parks and recreation; education and workforce training; law and courts; shared equipment, personnel, and services; joint purchasing; government reorganization; transportation and highway departments; and, records management and administrative functions. The complete report can be found at www.rockinst.org/lgs/PDF/2017-10-17_NYS_CWSSI_Report.pdf.

The first shared services plans developed under New York State's County-Wide Shared Services Initiative law include 389 proposals totaling \$208 million in projected savings in 2018 and at least \$76.1 million in recurring savings. Of the 57 counties in New York State required to create a plan, 34 (or nearly 60%) chose to adopt a plan by September 15, 2017. The remaining counties chose to delay adoption until September 15, 2018. In the Tug Hill region, Jefferson and Oneida counties submitted plans and came up with the following savings:



Total Property Tax Savings	2018 Savings	2019 Savings	Fully Phased in Savings
	\$331,500	\$331,500	\$331,500

Number of Projects: 2		
Projects		Project Savings
Public Safety Communications		\$331,500
Intra County Service Consolidation		N/A



Total Property Tax Savings	2018 Savings	2019 Savings	Fully Phased in Savings
	\$164,000	\$164,000	\$164,000

Number of Projects: 3		
Projects		Project Savings
Boronville Court Consolidation		\$14,000
Oneida County-wide DPW Equipment Sharing Agreement		\$150,000
Rome and Verona Mowing and Snowplowing Shared Service Agreement		N/A

Deferiet Water Project Wins Award

The Joint Deferiet – Herrings Waterworks Improvement project recently received recognition from the Central New York Branch of the American Public Works Association as winner of the 2017 Environmental Project of the Year Award. After an initial study completed in 2007 by BCA, the project was completed in phases, and resulted in a shared glass lined elevated water tank to serve both villages, a transmission line to connect the two villages, improvements at the treatment plant, new waterlines and new water meters. The village of Herrings dissolved midway during implementation of the water system construction. Funding for the project came from several sources, including NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation, USDA Rural Development, and NYS Department of State.

Pictured are Deferiet Mayor Zando and former Herrings Mayor Loeffler on top of the water tower during construction.



Focus On The COG - Special Insert

This edition features the Salmon River Council of Governments, the work they are doing and the major things happening in their part of Tug Hill.

Newly Elected Officials 2018 Training School

The NYS Association of Towns will once again hold its bi-annual newly elected officials training school. Two identical sessions will be offered January 10-12, 2018, at the Albany Marriott in Albany and January 17-19, 2018, at The Doubletree by Hilton in Rochester. Supervisors, town board members, fiscal personnel and town clerks are all encouraged to attend. There is a fee of \$200 for members and \$250 for non-members which covers the costs of tuition, materials, breakfast, lunch, and coffee breaks. A block of rooms has been reserved at both locations. Please see their website at www.nytowns.org for registration and agenda information.

Work Continues on Camden Village Zoning Overhaul

The Camden Planning Board is nearing completion of an update of the village's zoning law. The law is being amended to better implement the land use and development policies laid out in Camden's 2014 Comprehensive Plan. Among the improvements are a reduction in the number of zoning districts, simplification of the sign provisions, and updated parking requirements. The finished product will be reviewed by the Oneida County Planning Board and adopted by the village board.

Children at Play Signs in New York State

The question comes up from time to time about Children at Play signs on town roads. Sometimes citizens will come to the town or village board requesting that such signs be posted.

According to the *New York State Supplement to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCH)*,

"Use of the CHILDREN AT PLAY sign should be limited to locations where, because of unusual conditions, motorists might not expect children to be playing in the vicinity of the roadway. The CHILDREN AT PLAY sign should not be used on highways where obvious residential development alerts drivers to the possibility of children at play."

The Cornell Local Roads article on this subject can be found at:

<http://www.clrp.cornell.edu/q-a/054-children.html>

The New York State Department of Transportation page on the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices can be found at:

<https://www.dot.ny.gov/mutcd>

The New York State Supplement to the MUTCH can be found at:

<https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/operating/oom/transportation-systems/repository/B-2011Supplement-adopted.pdf>

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If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically please email your request to gwen@tughill.org or call 1-888-785-2380.

Electronic versions appear in full color!

Hike/Snowshoe with Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust December 9

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust is leading a winter hike or snowshoe (if the snow obliges) for anyone who needs a break from the holiday madness on **Saturday, December 9th** from **10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** The hike will take place at the Joseph A. Blake Wildlife Sanctuary in Rutland.

THLT staff will lead this easy, one to two-mile hike on protected land. The 144-acre wildlife sanctuary is owned by the land trust, and has a network of trails open to the public for mountain biking, hiking, and snowshoeing. Plan on wearing sturdy boots, or bringing your snowshoes, and wearing plenty of warm layers. Children's snowshoes are available upon advance request. This family friendly hike is free and open to the community.

Participants will meet in the parking lot of the wildlife sanctuary next to 31269 Middle Road in Rutland, NY. Please RSVP by contacting Community Programs Manager Lianna Lee at 315.779.2239 or email tughilloutreach@nnymail.com.

Focus On The COG

Salmon Rivers Council of Governments

The Salmon Rivers Council of Governments (SRCG) was the second of the five councils of governments to be formed in the Tug Hill region. It was formed in 1976 as the Salmon Rivers Cooperative Planning Board, and later restructured as a council of governments, representing the broader scope of issues participating towns and villages were called on to address. SRCG currently consists of the towns of Albion, Amboy, Orwell, and Parish and the village of Parish. In its earliest times, it also included the village of Altmar, which dissolved in 2013, and the town of Williamstown, which subsequently affiliated with the Cooperative Tug Hill Council. It includes the Salmon River, Little Salmon River, and Salmon River Reservoir. Albion is home to the New York State fish hatchery, Orwell to the Salmon River Falls, and Albion and Parish to the Happy Valley State Wildlife Management Area.

In addition to concerns common to towns and villages in the Tug Hill region, SRCG has traditionally had a special interest in issues related to the Salmon River corridor, including water quality, water level management, water-



Fishermen in the Salmon River. Photo by Tony Machia.

front access, fishery issues, and economic development potential related to being riverfront communities.

The SRCG is located along the east central portion of Oswego County, north of Syracuse, New York. The area regularly receives significant amounts of lake effect snow due to their location downwind of the prevailing winds that traverse Lake Ontario. Salmon fishing and winter recreation make up a significant portion of their local economies. The population of the SRCG communities is 7,547, and the area is 168.83 square miles. Major highways include Interstate Route 81, U.S. Route 104, and NYS Routes 13 and 69.

The SRCG consists of the chief elected official of the member town or village, plus an additional representative as designated by that member government. They meet at least twice a year with additional meetings as needed. They annually elect a chairman, a vice chairman, and a fiscal agent. The work of SRCG is largely carried out by their circuit rider, Paul Baxter, in conjunction with Tug Hill Commission staff.

Meet the Salmon Rivers Circuit Rider

Paul Baxter is the circuit rider for SRCG, lives nearby in Oswego County, and serves his community as a long-time member of the West Monroe Fire Department. SRCG does not currently have associate circuit riders, although it has been exploring the possibility. Paul also serves the North Shore Council of Governments.



Paul is frequently the 'eyes and ears' of SRCG member municipalities, attending meetings that local officials cannot due to their work schedules, and reporting back to the towns and villages. Paul also annually compiles and distributes a comparison between Oswego County towns of salaries and spending categories on services such as fire protection and ambulance service, which the towns use as a point of reference in examining their own budget development.

Salmon Rivers Projects

The town of Albion is currently working on exploring the feasibility of public water in the central part of the town, including the former village of Altmar and the Salmon River hatchery. The town and village of Parish are also exploring public water, and the potential of salmon fishing on the Little Salmon River. The town of Amboy has been reviewing and updating the town comprehensive plan, as has the town of Parish. The town of Orwell recently added playground equipment to its town park through a combination of citizen labor and state assistance. The town of Orwell also recently updated its historic town clock, located in the steeple of the town hall in downtown Orwell.

Tug Hill COG Map

