



**February 26, 2016**

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**North Country Goes Green**

**Irish Festival  
March 11-13**

[www.ncirishfest.com](http://www.ncirishfest.com)

**Shamrock Run**

**March 12**

[www.watertownymca.org](http://www.watertownymca.org)

# 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.

## "Passing of the Skis" Ceremony

All four executive directors of the commission, past and present, were able to join in a "passing of the skis" ceremony last week. Former executive directors Ben Coe and Bob Quinn presided while John Bartow passed a set of antique wooden skis to Katie Malinowski. The skis were originally given to Ben Coe (first executive director) by town of Champion supervisor Mark Freeman, who was on the steering committee that planned the first public forums in 1974.

The last time the skis were passed was in 2004.



Front from left: current executive director Katie Malinowski, previous executive director John Bartow. Back from left: past executive directors Bob Quinn and Ben Coe.



2004

## Black River Watershed Conference

Mark your calendars the 6th annual Black River Watershed Conference will be held on June 8th at Maggie's on the River, Watertown. More information to follow!

## Fiscal Oversight/Red Flags for Fraud Workshops

Presented by the Office of the State Comptroller's Syracuse Regional Office, this training program is designed to assist village and town officials in carrying out their fiscal oversight responsibility.

**Wednesday, March 2, 2016**

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Trenton Municipal Center  
8520 Old Poland Rd  
Barneveld, NY 13304

**Thursday, March 3, 2016**

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Tailwater Lodge  
52 Pulaski St  
Altmar, NY 13302

The workshop will be offered at the following locations:

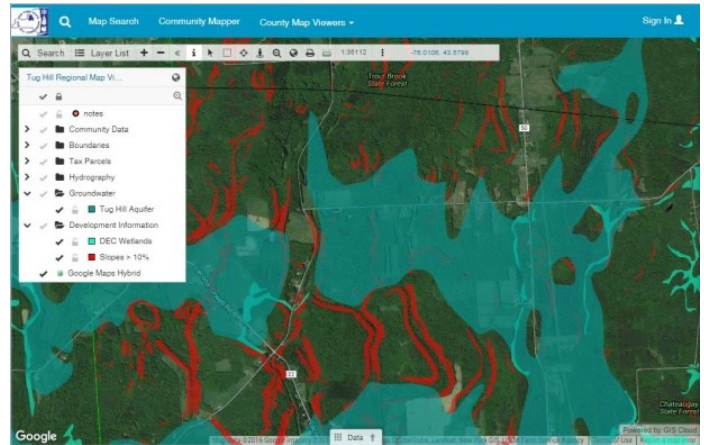
The training is free. **Registration is requested by March 1, 2016.** Please contact the Tug Hill Commission at 315-785-2380 or 888-785-2380 to RSVP.

# Commission Online Mapper Updated

The Tug Hill Commission has recently added online database capabilities to its GIS services. This provides a centralized database that allows communities to edit their own data using one of many different editing GIS platforms. A community does not have to be tied to one specific GIS platform (i.e. Esri, QGIS, Manifold, etc.). Some communities are currently using QGIS (free desktop program) to edit their data in the online database, which then can be reflected in the public map viewer if they wish to share their data in that way, or it can be viewed in a private online map.

A community can also edit their data using a mobile app on their smartphone and/or tablet. Data can be updated in the field or new data can be collected. All edits are made directly to the new online database.

The centralized database, whether you are a supervisor/mayor, planning board member, or zoning board member looking to view data online, or a DPW crew member collecting data in the field, or the person who is tasked with editing the data, allows everyone to see the most recent updated datasets. This can help to cut down on time it takes to update maps, help ensure that a community is seeing their most recent data updates, and provide different levels of view, updating, and editing capabilities to suit different users needs. As always, the commission will still provide hardcopy maps to communities and assist with edits to their maps and data when asked.



The free map viewer can be found at <http://www.tughill.org/services/gis/regional-map-viewer/>, click on full screen view to view the larger map. The “Community Mapper” is for private access. For more information, contact Mickey Dietrich at (315) 785-2380 or [mickey@tughill.org](mailto:mickey@tughill.org).

## Oswego County Community Health and Poverty Reduction Task Force Seeks Input

The Oswego County Community Health and Poverty Reduction Task Force held an open forum on Monday, February 22 at the County Office Building in Oswego. At the well-attended meeting, chairman Roy Reehil reviewed the major areas within the initiative and introduced a survey through which the task force hopes to identify priorities and strategies for action.

Survey categories include infrastructure, natural resources, human resources, institutions, and the housing market. The task force hopes for responses from across Oswego County communities, including government, business, civic groups, schools, and citizens. The survey, in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat format is available at the task force's web site, [www.oc2030.org](http://www.oc2030.org).

## Local Laws Now Searchable

NYS Department of State now has a listing of all local laws adopted by municipalities in the state available online. The database contains local laws filed with the Department of State on or after January 1, 1998. It also includes county codes filed on or after April 1, 2015. Searches can be done by specific municipality or by subject. This is helpful if municipalities are looking for samples of local laws or for all laws that are on file for their municipality. To search the database visit <http://www.dos.ny.gov/corps/locallaws.html>.

# State of Lake Ontario Meeting

## March 8

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has scheduled its annual State of Lake Ontario meeting for 2016. The meeting covering DEC regions 6 and 7 is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pulaski High School, 4624 Salina Street (U.S. Route 11), Pulaski, New York, and is open to the public.

## Streamlined Permitting Incentives

One way for municipalities to take advantage of current solar energy and electric vehicle infrastructure incentives right now is through Category 1 of NYSERDA's Cleaner, Greener Communities Program: *Adoption of standardized permitting processes to help municipalities remove barriers to local economic development in the growing solar and electric vehicle industries* (PON 2721). More information about Category 1 of the Cleaner, Greener Communities Program can be found in a fact sheet that we will be happy to get to you via mail or email. Cities, Towns, Villages, or other entities having jurisdiction for permitting, land use planning, and zoning are eligible as follows:

- **Streamlined *Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment* Permitting Process or Zoning/Parking Ordinances:**  
Funding will be awarded in the amount of \$2,500 per project for applicants representing a population of up to 30,000 residents.
- **Streamlined *Solar Electric Systems* Permitting (Unified Solar Permit):**  
Funding will be awarded in the amount of \$2,500 per project for applicants representing a population of up to 30,000 residents.

For more information about these opportunities, please use the following contacts:

- Sustainable CUNY (For the Unified Solar Permit): NYS Solar Ombudsman, [NYSolar@cuny.edu](mailto:NYSolar@cuny.edu)
- Oswego County - CNYRPDB: Chris Carrick, (315) 422-8276 x213, [ccarrick@cnyrpdb.org](mailto:ccarrick@cnyrpdb.org)
- Oneida County - Mohawk Valley EDGE: Mark Kaucher, (315) 338-0393, [mkaucher@mvedge.org](mailto:mkaucher@mvedge.org)
- Jefferson and Lewis Counties - Adirondack North Country Association: Jennifer Perry, (518) 891-6200, [jper-ry@adirondack.org](mailto:jper-ry@adirondack.org)

Beginning later in 2016, The Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) will serve as the Eastern New York State Community Partnership (NYSCP) Program Coordinator in the North Country and Mohawk Valley regions. In conjunction with program partners, including the Adirondack North Country Association and the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, the NYSCP will deploy Regional Support contractors to leverage regional partnerships and locally based networks to encourage adoption of energy efficiency technologies and policies, smart growth and sustainable land-use planning practices and use of renewables. The project is expected to help communities develop and replicate advanced clean energy demonstration projects.

Also, later in 2016, the Central New York Regional Planning Development Board will implement the New York State Community Partnership (NYSCP) in Central New York projects. Work will be implemented in 24 communities to complete adoption of the Climate Smart Communities Pledge, development of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventories, and development of Climate Action Plans to identify GHG emission reduction priorities and opportunities. The project will build regional partnerships and locally based networks to provide clean energy tools, resources, and technical support that will help communities save on energy costs, stimulate their local clean economies and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Central New York Regional Planning Development Board is working with a host of communities on a variety of energy efficiency initiatives. For more information, please visit the Energy Challenge website <http://cnyenergychallenge.org/>.

For more information about these incentives, contact Jennifer Harvill at (315) 785-2380 or [jennifer@tughill.org](mailto:jennifer@tughill.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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appear in full color!**

## Herrings Dissolution Update

On February 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m., members of the appointed village of Herrings Dissolution Committee joined together at the village office to review a summary of notes from the January kick-off meeting, project scope of work and online access to informational updates through the website at <http://www.tughill.org/projects/village-of-herrings-dissolution-study/>. As part of the data collection phase of the project, attendees also reviewed a list of village assets, local laws, interviewees, and infrastructure mapping to guide next steps in developing the village dissolution plan.

Funded through the Department of State under the Expedited Re-organization Assistance Program, local officials and appointed representatives from the committee are developing the village dissolution plan according to General Municipal Law 17-A with technical assistance and support from the NYS Tug Hill Commission. Members of the committee are scheduled to meet March 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the village meeting room to review a draft plan.

## Save the Date 2016 Clean Energy Economy Conference

The 2016 Clean Energy Economy Conference will be held June 13, 14 and 15 at SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Utica, NY. Organized by the Adirondack North Country Association. This is the premier forum in Northern New York for connecting Clean Energy issues and opportunities. The conference webpage is [www.ncenergyconference.org](http://www.ncenergyconference.org). Please stay tuned for registration information.

## Learn How Your Garden or Backyard Can Provide Important Habitat for Pollinators!

The St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, in cooperation with Jefferson County Cornell Cooperative Extension, is hosting a Pollinator Pathway workshop on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the extension office located on 203 S. Hamilton Street, Watertown, NY. A Pollinator Pathway is a series of small gardens planted with native species that provide pollinators (such as butterflies and birds) with distinct habitat pathways in urbanized, scattered or barren landscapes. You can become part of this project right in your own backyard! Learn about:

- NYS Taskforce on pollinators
- Urban Conservation and Invasive Species
- Benefits of native plants and pollinators
- Suggested species and how to use them in your landscape
- Seed collection
- Using the YardMap tool developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

For more information or to RSVP contact:

Megan Pistolese - [megan.pistolese@tnc.org](mailto:megan.pistolese@tnc.org) or 315-387-3600  
or Sue Gwise - [sjg42@cornell.edu](mailto:sjg42@cornell.edu) or 315-788-8450