

## Councils of Governments (COGs)

Municipalities within the Tug Hill region have long recognized the benefits of collaborating to improve the efficiency of government and to enhance the delivery of services to their constituents. In regards to the Tug Hill Commission, this collaborative approach has resulted in the establishment of five councils of governments (COGs for short) serving 50 municipalities within and 3 municipalities adjacent to the region.

Name	Number of Communities Served	Within Which Counties	Local Government Advisor/Circuit Rider
<b>Cooperative Tug Hill Council</b>	17 towns 4 villages	Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, and Oneida	Angie Kimball
<b>North Shore Council of Governments</b>	2 towns 2 villages	Oswego	Paul Baxter
<b>Northern Oneida County Council of Governments</b>	12 towns 6 villages	Oneida	Jean Waterbury (temp)
<b>River Area Council of Governments</b>	4 towns 5 villages	Jefferson, Lewis	Mickey Dietrich
<b>Salmon Rivers Council of Governments</b>	4 towns 1 village	Oswego	Paul Baxter

COGs are independent units of local government created through intermunicipal agreements signed by all member communities. They are governed through by-laws, budgets and policies adopted by their respective executive boards, and are an integral partner in the delivery of programs and services of the commission. The commission recognizes the value of locally formed councils of governments as:

- **Representative** of their member municipalities and citizens in their communities;
- **Responsive** to the needs of their communities and the people they serve;
- **Responsible** for their self-governance and in establishing policies and priorities for their work; and,
- **Regional** in recognizing that they have commonality with all communities in the Tug Hill region and strive to acknowledge the ties that bind them.

Support for the councils of governments is provided by the commission and local government dues. Each COG is served by a local government advisor, also known as a municipal management consultant or more informally a “circuit rider”, which is a vital part of service delivery. The job of the circuit rider was created to enhance the capacity of local governments within the region, to add value to the expertise of the commission staff, and to serve as the vehicle for improved communication and cooperation between COG member municipalities.

