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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 27, 2022

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***Castorland Journal* Presentation Scheduled for July 28 Riverfest Kickoff**

The Lowville Academy and Central School (LACS) History Department and the Friends of the Black River, an *ad hoc* community group, will host a presentation by Dr. John Gallucci on Thursday, July 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the LACS high school auditorium or virtually via Zoom. Doors will open at 6:30. His presentation on the *Castorland Journal* will be free and open to the public, coinciding with the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce's RiverFest 2022 weekend festivities. Registration is required for this free event at tinyurl.com/castorland.

The first-person accounts of Pierre Pharoux and Simon Desjardins are reminiscent of the famous Lewis and Clark expeditions to the American Southwest in the early 1800's. In 1793, Pierre Pharoux and Simon Desjardins were sent to the United States to develop newly acquired French holdings in Lewis and Jefferson counties in upstate New York. They documented their explorations in what were then largely unknown regions along New York State's northwestern frontier. The Compagnie de New York (New York Company) named its tract *Castorland*, from the French word for beaver, castor, found to be plentiful here. The story is heroic and heartbreaking. Once a promising attempt by the French to speculate American lands, the duo experienced tragic disappointments. The death of Pharoux, who drowned in a flooded Black River, is chief among them. Yet, the story told through the journal entries brings to life the character of these historic individuals and along with it the land and people they encounter. This translation of their journey is a unique document of American history with national significance that happened in our own hometown.

Dr. John A. Gallucci, editor and translator of the *Castorland Journal: An Account of the Exploration and Settlement of Northern New York State by French Emigres in the Years 1793-1797*, was born and raised in upstate and northern New York. His book, published in 2010, has allowed him to combine his life-long interest in French literature with his on-going interest in the early history of New York State. Dr. Gallucci is a Professor of French at Colgate University.

Helping local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill region.

This event is being held in collaboration with the Lewis County Historical Society, the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District, the River Area Council of Governments, and the New York State Tug Hill Commission. Please visit the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce website for information on all RiverFest 2022 events at adirondackstughill.com/event/riverfest/.

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The New York State Tug Hill Commission is a non-regulatory state agency charged with helping local governments, organizations, and citizens shape the future of the region, especially its environment and economy. The commission uses a grassroots approach to build local capacity and provide technical assistance in land use planning, community development, and natural resource management.