

## Commissioner Maciejko Recognized for 27 Years of Service

The Tug Hill Commission board met on Monday, June 26 in Castorland, and presented Commissioner Roger Maciejko with a certificate recognizing his 27 years of service to the Tug Hill Commission. Roger is retiring from the commission board when his current term expires on July 31, 2023. Roger has represented Lewis County on the commission board since he was appointed by Senator Joe Bruno in 1996. A lifelong resident of Lewis County, Roger has had a lifetime of public service, serving as the town of Turin supervisor for over a decade. He was also a deputy sheriff for the Lewis County Sheriff's Department from 1966 to 1996, including responsibilities as a youth officer and criminal investigator. He was instrumental in the creation of the State of New York Police Juvenile Officers Association, founded in 1975 and still in effect today.

Roger is also an outdoorsman who has enjoyed fishing and hunting in the core of Tug Hill his entire life. In his youth he was part of the ski patrol at the Snow Ridge Ski Resort, and he is also a certified scuba diver and private pilot! Roger's mother, Elva Maciejko, was honored as a Tug Hill Sage in 1996.



*From left to right: Commission chair Jan Bogdanowicz, members Gerry Ritter, Roger Maciejko, Bill Scriber, secretary Tom Boxberger, and member Leona Chereshnoski.*

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## Tug Hill Sage Nominations Due August 15

The commission will honor a new class of Tug Hill Sages at its 50th anniversary celebration on October 19, 2023 at the Tailwater Lodge in Altmar. Sage nominations are due no later than August 15. The nomination form, detailed nomination guidelines, and pictures with backgrounds of all current sages can be found at the commission's [website](http://www.tughill.org). Nomination forms can be mailed to the commission office or emailed to [taylor@tughill.org](mailto:taylor@tughill.org).

# Invasive Species Symposium Held

The St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) held the Eastern Great Lakes Invasive Species Symposium on June 22 at Tailwater Lodge in Altmar. Several Tug Hill Commission staff attended the event, which was free to the public and at maximum registration capacity. The event was a “professional exchange of information that provides applicable and timely ways to support invasive species prevention and management initiatives while also enhancing the health and resiliency of natural systems.” A variety of partners set up informative exhibits including the Tug Hill Commission, Tug Hill Tomorrow, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Indian River Lakes Conservancy, Save the River, New York Sea Grant/Cornell University, NYS DEC, and more.

Symposium attendees, including many from the Tug Hill region, heard presentations on resilient urban forestry, climate smart forests, climate challenges to invasive species management, riparian corridor restoration and the role of native plants in shoreline restoration, and Adirondack native plant restoration. After lunch, a series of eight speakers gave lightning round presentations ranging from the Fort Drum invasive plant survey to updates on the watercraft inspection steward program.

In the afternoon, attendees heard from the Hemlock Initiative at Cornell with updates on the spread of, and management options for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Management options included pesticide treatment, bio-control releases, and infected stand removal. The Integrated Pest Management program provided updates on the Spotted Lanternfly, an invasive species of high concern in New York due to its impact on crops such as grapes, apples, and maple syrup. Invasive species such as the Spotted Lanternfly and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid have the potential to heavily impact the Tug Hill region. Resources from the symposium including presentations and contact information can be found [here](#).



Commission staffer Gabriel Yerdon with the Tug Hill Commission display at the invasive species symposium.

## Reading and Interpreting Site Plans Webinar July 12

The [New York Planning Federation](#) has scheduled another training session in their Learn @ Lunch series on “Reading and Interpreting Site Plans” on Wednesday July 12 from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. This introductory session will provide attendees with the basics on the information and level of detail to be expected for concept, preliminary, and final site plans. Participants will learn how to assess natural features of a property and read/review a set of site plans consisting of subdivision, site, utility, grading, and erosion control plans. Register by sending the participant’s name, email address and municipality via email to [nypf@nypf.org](mailto:nypf@nypf.org) and a Zoom link will be sent by July 11.

## New Resources for Water Service Line Inventory Compliance

Public water systems must comply with new lead and copper rule revisions that were adopted in 2022. Last week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a small entity compliance guide and a fact sheet to provide more information to communities working to meet the October 16, 2024 deadline for these new requirements. From the EPA [website](#):

**Small Entity Compliance Guide** - On June 28, 2023, EPA released *Developing and Maintaining a Service Line Inventory: Small Entity Compliance Guide* to support water systems, particularly small water systems, in complying with the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) initial inventory requirements. EPA’s Small Entity Compliance guide helps explain the inventory related actions small community and non-transient non-community water systems are required to take under the LCRR.

**Fact Sheet** - On June 28, 2023, EPA released *Fact Sheet for Developing and Maintaining a Service Line Inventory*. The fact sheet can help water systems quickly identify the key LCRR inventory requirements, including inventory elements, planning, records review, investigations, public accessibility, and information for non-lead systems.

Communities on Tug Hill have started working toward compliance with these new requirements. The village of West Carthage, for example, has implemented an on-line survey of village residents to gather necessary data. Resources are available from the New York Rural Water Association and others. Contact the commission office if your community would like us to help connect you with assistance.



# Technical and Issue Paper Updates

Commission staff have been hard at work writing new technical and issue papers, and reviewing and updating existing papers. In addition to the three announced in the last edition of Tug Hill Times, the following four papers are also now available on the commission's website at [tughill.org/publications/technical-issue-papers/](http://tughill.org/publications/technical-issue-papers/).



## Introduction to Municipal Websites - New

Although many towns and villages in New York State have municipal websites, there remain many that do not. While there is no law that requires a town or village to have a website, there are good reasons to consider one, primarily to keep the community informed of the services available to them, events, legislative updates, and more. This paper discusses legally required content as well as recommended content for municipal websites, and ways to efficiently and effectively manage a town or village website. This issue paper borrows heavily from presentations and material produced by Sarah Brancatella, Legislative Director and Counsel at the Association of Towns of the State of New York, with permission.



## Use and Regulation of Drones for Municipalities - New

Drones, also referred to as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs), are used widely for both public and private business purposes as well as for recreation. A drone refers to any aerial vehicle that receives remote commands from a pilot or relies on software for autonomous flight. Originally developed for the military and aerospace industries, drones have found their way into the mainstream because of the enhanced levels of safety and efficiency they bring. In New York State, as of February 2023 there were over 10,000 certificated Part 107 remote pilots, with over 300,000 in the United States as a whole. New York State agencies and counties are regularly using drones, and local municipal governments are beginning to find uses for them as well. This

paper focuses on understanding requirements for drones and how they can be used for municipal purposes. Special thanks to Gary McPherson, P.E., NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, for his review of this paper.



## GIS Resources for Local Governments - Update

This paper serves as an introduction to what a Geographic Information System (GIS) is, why local governments may be interested in developing or using a GIS, and things to consider when considering a program.



## Planning Considerations for Solar Facilities - Update

The revisions to the commission's solar paper, developed in cooperation with multiple organizations over the four-county area, build upon the previous version, and include more examples of solar facilities from the region, resources and policies for municipalities to reference, and sections for developers to better understand municipal concerns. The paper includes many appendices which may be useful to a variety of organizations.

New technology used in the panels themselves, new practices such as screening, glare control, tracking systems for solar panels to adjust to the sun's position, and opportunities for mutually beneficial relationships between solar facilities and grazing farmers through the practice of agrivoltaics, are all discussed in the new version of this paper.

# Highway Departments and Town Budgets with Laird Petrie

There is often confusion about who is really in charge of the town highway department. Is it the town board or the highway superintendent? This session will cover the statutory duties of both the town board and the highway superintendent when it comes to highway operations including the highway budget, hiring and firing highway workers, and control of highway equipment. All are welcome and questions are encouraged.

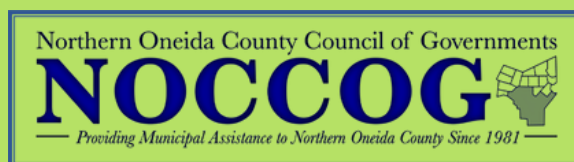
Since retirement from the Office of the State Comptroller in 2021, instructor Laird Petrie has been providing technical assistance and training to towns and villages in a four-county area through a contract with the Tug Hill Commission. This session will repeat what Mr. Petrie presented in Adams, NY in May.

**Wednesday, August 23, 2023**

**6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**Town of Trenton Municipal Center  
8520 Old Poland Road  
Barneveld, NY 13304**

Sponsored by the NYS Tug Hill Commission



In cooperation with the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments

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Call 315-785-2380 or email [tughill@tughill.org](mailto:tughill@tughill.org) to register  
for this free workshop.

# Upcoming Event

## “WE ARE STILL HERE: THE MICHISAAGIIG NISHNAABEG”



Join Chief Laurie Carr, Chief of the Hiawatha First Nation Council, and Assistant Professor Chadwick Cowie, for an introduction to the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg, the Nation itself, and the confederacy it belongs to.



South Lewis Central School  
Auditorium OR Zoom



Friday, July 28, 2023  
6:30PM

Register at:

<https://tinyurl.com/BRHiawatha>

**Sponsored by:**

Tug Hill Commission  
Lewis County Chamber of Commerce  
Friends of the Black River

# Oneida County Offers IT Services to Municipalities



The Oneida County Department of Information Technology is offering IT professional services to municipalities within the county. These services can include assessments, design, hardware and software implementation, technical support, and maintenance. Also offered is training in cyber security and firewalls, Windows/Linux and Microsoft product support, training with IPS/IDS, telephony systems including VOIP and traditional TDM systems, network and desktop support, procurement, audio visual and presentation equipment, database design, mobile device management, as well as various other helpdesk services.

Typical agreements cost \$2,400 annually, which includes eight hours per month of basic professional services. Any additional professional services would be provided at a higher per hour cost and would be negotiated between the county and the municipality. For more information, contact Chuck Klein, Director of Information Technology, 315-798-6471 or [cklein@ocgov.net](mailto:cklein@ocgov.net).

## NYS Bond Act Upcoming Listening Sessions

This past November, New Yorkers approved the NYS Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental [Bond Act](#) ballot proposition to make \$4.2 billion available for environmental and community projects. State agencies, local governments, and partners can access funding to protect water quality, help communities adapt to climate change, improve resiliency and create green jobs. Bond Act funding will support new and expanded projects across the state to safeguard drinking water sources, reduce pollution, and protect communities and natural resources from climate change.

Listening sessions are being held around the state to garner feedback as an inter-agency working group is developing program implementation logistics, including eligibility criteria, use of existing or new grant programs, determining potential match requirements, and points of contact. The closest in-person session is being held in Saranac Lake on July 14. There is also a virtual session on July 26. For more information, see the Bond Act [website](#).

## Water Quality Standards Webinar July 6

The Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University, in cooperation with Wichita State University, is presenting a Water Quality Standards webinar on Thursday, July 6, at 2 p.m. This one-hour webinar will cover water quality standards with real-world examples, particularly as they apply to wastewater treatment plant owners and operators.

In most cases, state water quality standards are the single most important factor in determining National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit effluent limitations. Failing to understand how water quality standards affect NPDES permit limits may subject a permittee to overly stringent requirements that can prove costly to the permittee.

Some of the topics to be discussed include quality standards, designated uses, water quality criteria, and antidegradation, key water quality areas that utilize water quality standards: monitoring and assessment, total maximum daily loads, and NPDES permit limits. This webinar is geared for managers, owners, and operators of water systems serving less than 10,000 people, or wastewater systems with an average daily flow of less than 1 million gallons, decision-makers for water and wastewater utilities, including mayors and supervisors, finance officers, utility managers, public works directors, town and village board members, municipal clerks, as well as consultants and technical assistance providers serving water and wastewater systems.

Although this webinar has not been submitted for approval of continuing education credit, a certificate of attendance can be given to eligible attendees. There is no guarantee it will meet PDH or CEU requirements. Click [here](#) to register.

### Contact Us

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For upcoming trainings, grant deadlines, and meetings, view our [calendar](#).