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State of New York
Temporary State Commission
on Tug Hill

N.Y.S. Office Building
Watertown, New York 13601
(315) 782-0100

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Chairman
JAMES M. McMAHON
Vice Chairman
STEPHEN L. RICH
Secretary
BENJAMIN P. COE
Executive Director

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
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November 3, 1983
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEONA CHERESHNOSKI APPOINTED TO TUG HILL COMMISSION

Mrs. Leona M. Chereshnoski has just received word from Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink's office that she has been appointed to the Temporary State Commission on Tug Hill. Mrs. Chereshnoski succeeds Jane Bowman Jenkins who resigned October 15 as she now resides in the area only part of the year.

Mrs. Chereshnoski, of Lorraine, becomes one of two commission members from Jefferson County. The other is Stephen L. Rich, from the Town of Watertown.

Mrs. Chereshnoski, the wife of Ray Chereshnoski, has three children. She is employed as library clerk at the Adams Elementary branch of the South Jefferson Central School. She has served as Chairman of the Town of Lorraine Planning Board and as chairman of L.A.R.K. (Lorraine Area Recreation for Kids), a benevolent citizens' group which operates recreational programs for children at a site it has rehabilitated in the town. She now serves as Town Councilman and continues to serve the L.A.R.K. group in a variety of capacities.

The Tug Hill Commission assists the local governments and people of the 39-town Tug Hill Region working for a beneficial future.

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LEONA CHERESHNOSKI

42 YEARS AS A TUG HILL COMMISSIONER





Lerna Cheresnaski

- Appointed to the Tug Hill Commission in November 1983
- Elected Vice Chairman in 1988, served until 2002
- Her family were among Tug Hill's first settlers
- Her mother, Alice Clemens, founded the Old Tyme Fiddlers Museum in Osceola
- Involved in recruiting and selecting key personnel, including executive directors Bob Quinn, John Bartow, and Katie Malinowski
- Served on many subcommittees, including Executive, Strategic Planning, Personnel, Administrative & Finance

Dick Mark and Leona Chereshnoski



MEMBERS OF COMMISSION

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JAMES M. McMAHON
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LEONA M. CHERESHNOSKI
Vice Chairman

MIRACYL J. DAMON
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BENJAMIN P. COE
Executive Director

TO: Empire State College , Credit Evaluator September 20, 1993

FROM: Benjamin P. Coe, Executive Director *BPC*
Tug Hill Commission

SUBJECT: Learning experiences of Leona M. Chereshnoski while serving as Tug Hill
Commission member

Mrs. Chereshnoski was appointed to the commission in 1984; in 1988 she was elected its Vice Chairman. She has earned the respect of the commission members and staff both for her intellectual capacity and her common sense. Her principle areas of learning and practice have been in the fields of environmental planning, community history and public administration issues. Mrs. Chereshnoski has the uncommon ability to absorb information and consider all sides of an issue while still holding her own personal views.



THC Meeting late 1980's/early 1990's.

Kneeling: Dick Mark, Harold Woolschlager, Ben Coe

Standing: Anne Schuler, Don Beevers, Mike Damon, Steve Rich, Leona Chereshnoski, Jim McMahon, Waring Blackburn

Mid 1990's, Albany, Harold Woolshlager, Bob Quinn, Leona Chereshnoski, RoAnn Destito, Jim McMahon, Clyde Canfield



VENERABLE FOLKS 2016



Women of
DISTINCTION
HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Leona Chereshnoski
Nominated by Katie Malinowski

2018 Woman of Distinction Honoree



Leona Chereshnoski obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees in only five years. She did that at the age of 47, while working full-time as a library clerk in the South Jefferson Central School District and taking care of her family. She is currently the librarian at Osceola Public Library and owner of Old Lord's Barn Bed and Breakfast. Appointed in 1983, Leona is the longest serving member of the NYS Tug Hill Commission, which helps local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill region in portions of Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and Oswego Counties. She is the treasurer of the NYS Old Tyme Fiddlers' Association, secretary of the Osceola Snowmobile Association and a member of the New York Library Association and Jefferson Lewis Library Association.



Leona Chereshnoski bundles up before leaving the house on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020. Chereshnoski runs Old Lard's Barn Bed and Breakfast out of her childhood home in Osceola, Lewis County, in the Tug Hill region of upstate New York.

Georgie Silvarole/USA TODAY Network New York



Leona Chereshnoski and Mark Paulino chat about a photo hanging on the wall as they share breakfast at Chereshnoski's home on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020. Chereshnoski runs Old Lard's Barn Bed and Breakfast out of her home in Osceola, Lewis County.

Georgie Silvarole/USA TODAY Network New York

"Imagine, if you can, the poetry in his soul that was repressed because his contemporaries and peers might have laughed at his marvelous talent with the turn of a word." - Leona

**The Forester's Poem
by John (Old Lard) Clemens c1950**

I have seen this forest beauty,
Watched and studied it all the time.
How the big trees would mature,
Younger ones would fall in line.

Like the old man's pace grows slower,
He has seen it at its best,
And he hears the gentle whisper
As he sits him down to rest.

As we reach the age of forty,
Strong and vig'rous in our stride,
And the woods tools we are carrying
Over shoulder and by our side.

Talking of the woods and beauty,
And the work I like the best.
I listen to a whisper
As I lay me down to rest.

When we reach the age of fifty,
The old ladder is then complete.
When we hear the foreman calling
It is anything but sweet.

"Come along and let's get going,
Load those logs and stop your jest."
Then I listen to that whisper
As I sit me down to rest.

You have done your best old fellow,
Younger ones will take your place.
You have seen Old Tug Hill slaughtered,
All of this you've had to face.

Five more years will be the finish
Of this beauty and the rest
And they'll hear the gentle whisper
As they lay me down to rest.

LETTERS FROM A TUG HILL LOGGER 2021



Old Lard and Leona

THANK YOU!

