



DRYDEN TOWN NEWSLETTER

May 31, 2010

Volunteers needed



Are you interested in serving on one of the many volunteer boards in the Town of Dryden? The Zoning Board of Appeals and Dryden Youth Commission are both in need of members.

The Dryden Youth Commission needs two members: a resident from the Village of Freeville and a resident from the Town of Dryden. NYC meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM to assess the needs and priorities of Dryden youth and to develop programs to meet these needs. You can read the annual report and more about the NYC in general on the Town's [website](#).

ZBA meets as needed, no more than once a month, on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM to hear appeals for variance from the Town Zoning Ordinance where strict conformity

The Town History Corner

by Harry L.D. Weldon, Town Historian

There is a little bit of the Adirondack Mountains right here in our Town of Dryden, for sure! At least it is a place that when walked along the shoreline reminds one of the many lakes and ponds in the great north woods. From a hillside above it—well, not so much, you have to find one of the coves that surrounds itself with pine trees, marshy areas and waterfowl. On a late spring evening, sit there at a picnic table and sheer imagination allows one to hear the blood curdling call of a loon; a water bird so indicative of any northern forest.

History lends itself with a true tale of pre-historic record of Dryden Lake in the Town of Dryden, NY. This lake is what is geologically referred to as a “kettle lake.” It was formed when gigantic blocks of ice, buried in the outwash in front of a glacier, melted and receded.

The last glacier that covered this Town retreated northward; leaving great blocks of stagnant ice which broke off and became buried in the accumulating sediment. This sediment, composed of what is called glacier tillage, insulated the buried ice blocks and as the climate warmed the tillage fell away. The melting waters washed the tillage off, further exposing a concentration of ice to become a water puddle. A huge mud puddle, if you will, that settled out to form a pond or lake. Such is the case with our Dryden Lake.

Scientists tell us that the last glacier to have covered this area to a depth of somewhere between one and half to two miles thick, before the start of the meltdown, happened about 12,000 years ago at approximately 5,200 to 7,800 feet deep; about the twice length of Dryden Lake.

Sometime when you go out to the lake lay back on the grass as close to the water level as possible and look across to the farthest shoreline; doing this ought to give you an idea of what it would be like to be at the bottom of such a pre-historic glacier, looking up to the surface. It gives one quite a sensation.

Dryden Lake, since its discovery by early settlers, has been deepened by the addition of a “spill-over dam” and enlarged in acreage from its earlier size.



The Town Hall at 93 E Main.

This is what the Town Hall looked like 3 years ago.

Ask a Code Officer...

Have you ever wondered how high a fence can be before you need a permit? Or what the rules are on swimming pools—even some of the inflatable ones? Or how to subdivide your property?

What questions do you have that for our Code Enforcement Officers?

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FROM THE CODE OFFICE



Spring has finally come to Dryden and the thoughts and plans have turned to new outdoor projects. Many of these projects do not involve any permits at all; or so one might think. One area that is particularly a problem is swimming pools that pop up for the summer.

To start with, regulated swimming pools are defined to be any structure that is intended for swimming or recreational bathing capable of containing water over 24 inches deep. This would include any in-ground, aboveground, and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas. The use of the word “capable” is one that you should note since just having less than 24” of water in a 36” on-ground pool does not mean that you are not required to meet all the barrier requirements.

Barrier requirements are very specific but some of the general specifications are that the “barrier” has to be at least 48” in height; any gates in the barrier has to be self-closing and self-latching, and not allow a 4” sphere to pass through any of the openings in the barrier.

We often answer many statements such as, “I have to put a 4 foot fence around the 36 inch pool I just bought for around \$100.00?” The answer is yes!

An aboveground swimming pool that is 48” high or taller does not need a fence but has to have a retractable ladder or one that folds up to prevent entry by toddlers or other children that may have the potential for drowning.

To summarize, the placement of any swimming pool in the Town of Dryden that is capable of holding more than 24 inches of water requires both zoning and building permits from this office. The applications may be downloaded from the Town website or picked up at the office. If you give a call to us here, we will mail them to you. We do have to have the original ones submitted to us as we need to have the applications with original signatures of the owners to be kept on file.

Please feel free to call the office at 844-8888 and use option 2 to get to our office. We will be glad to answer any building and zoning related questions. Hope you have a safe and productive summer.

Congratulations!

Dryden High School Students - Receive TST BOCES Awards

If you see any of these Dryden High School students, ask them which award they got at the TST Career & Tech award ceremony on May 13th.

Scott Adams
David Daniels
Nicole Nash
Samantha VanDeWeert

Mary Alleman
Megan Green
Ashley Peak

Morgen Burns
Brian Houseworth
Dylan Sober

Greg Crispell
Joel Maloney
Greg Tennant



MONTHLY MEETINGS



Town Board, 2nd & 3rd
Wed. @ 7 pm

Planning Board, 3rd Thurs.
@ 7 pm

Conservation Board, Last Tues. @ 7:30 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals, First Tues. @ 7:30 pm

Recreation Commission, 3rd Wed. @ 7 pm

Youth Commission, 2nd Tuesday @ 6:30 pm

Technology Committee, Last Thurs. @ 2 pm

Loans & Grants Committee, Last Thurs. @ 3 pm

Finance Committee, Last Thurs. @ 4 pm

We also strive to keep a complete list of meetings on the Town Website at: <http://www.dryden.ny.us/calendar/>

Information please

On the Town’s website, www.dryden.ny.us, there is a link to a page with Local Information. If you know of a local organization or a business that you would like to share information about, please check out that page.

The link is: <http://dryden.ny.us/local-information>

If there are things out and about the town that you would like to see mentioned either in our newsletter or on our website, please don’t hesitate to let us know.

We are here to serve you.

Target has launched permanent community recycling stations in all of its stores to kick-off a month-long celebration for the 40th anniversary of Earth Day this month.

The recycling stations at the front of every Target store will accept:

- Aluminum, glass, & plastic beverage containers
- MP3 players
- Ink cartridges
- Plastic shopping bags
- Cell Phones

Barbara Eckstrom, Solid Waste Manager of Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division, says "the initiative by Target to celebrate Earth Day by focusing on recycling opportunities is supportive of the County Solid Waste Management Division goal of diverting 75% from landfills by 2015. We applaud private sector initiatives to reduce waste and encourage Tompkins County residents and businesses to participate this program."

For more information about this and other Target initiatives to Go Green, visit:

www.target.com/b/?node=357202011&ref=sr_shorturl_eco-friendly

The Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division wishes everyone a Happy and Green Earth Day.

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The Town History Corner (continued from Page 1)

by Harry L.D. Weldon, Town Historian

There is no record known of any permanent Indian (sic. Native American) settlement any place in Dryden town. There is abundant evidence that the aborigines used it as a hunting ground. Arrowheads of flint are occasionally found along banks of the many streams and particularly on the slopes overlooking Dryden Lake, where an archeological dig was done by the State of New York before a portion of the adjunct lands were made into a housing development.

Many a town resident can attest to finding such stone implements during the spring plowing on the lands over the years before these lands were subdivided for building lots. A photo that I took in the late spring of 2001 shows a probable cove site used by the Indian canoes before traversing up the hill to a seasonal campsite. This campsite was undoubtedly the largest such site used by the early native inhabitants in this area.

A prize possession of mine is an arrowhead found in a roadside bank off the Virgil Road, another, a fish net-weight. This arrowhead and others like it took its first humble beginning some 325 million years ago, well before our time in the Paleozoic Era of Earth's history!

It is told something like this: "Gradually, bed after bed of sand, mud, lime and salt accumulated and were compressed into rocks reaching heights upwards of 8,000 feet. Then about 200 million years ago, the land heaved and this time drainage flowed south..."

Then, it seems, over 100 million years, the uplifted land was eroded into a plain, which was then disrupted by yet more uplifting. Then about ten million years ago the climates grew colder for some unfound reason. By two million years ago, the formation of a series of Ice Ages evolved—the last ending about 10,000 or so years ago, in scattered pockets, over the earth can be found glaciers of lesser magnitude. Glaciation has been determined to have reached its peak about 21,750 years past in New York State; in geological terms, it was only yesterday!

In other places in the Town can be found a number of glacial hanging valleys, "durmlins" (cigar shaped hills), "eskers" (narrow ridges formed by water flowing under an ice shield), "kames" (long, low steep-sided mounds of sand and glacier stone and gravel) and several mini-"kettle ponds" and "moraines" (ridges of glacier tillage and "dropped" rock and stone debris).

Truly these are historic treasures!

Town of Dryden Weatherization Grant Program

By Henry Slater, Director of Planning, Building, & Zoning Code Enforcement



Beginning in 2009, the Town established a Residential Weatherization Fund of \$30,000. The funds were primarily created from repayment to the Town of Community Block Development Grant Awards.

Weatherization awards can be as much as \$1500. Funds could be utilized for residential energy audits or energy efficiency upgrades. The \$1500 ceiling created a potential for as many as 20 fund awards.

Awardees must qualify by income and demonstrate to the Towns satisfaction projects will improve energy consumption efficiency.

The first year was quite successful. Eighteen (18) awards were approved and of those projects fifteen (15) were completed. Two (2) were abandoned and one (1) remaining project should soon be completed, as part of another agency award, Tompkins Community Action which will be discussed later.

With funding limited to a maximum of a \$1500 award, difficulties would arise if projects were larger than the funding amount such as replacing windows or doors, furnace repair, insulation and similar projects. Initially quite by accident, the idea of teaming with other funding opportunities came to light when I noticed one of the Town weatherization awardees was also a Dryden Town Home Rehabilitation awardee.

Immediately I began exploring other area fund opportunities. At about the same time, councilperson David Makar also Town Board Liaison for the Weatherization Project had the same idea. David had been exploring teaming with Tompkins Community Action (TCA) who provides weatherization and home rehabilitation funding. TCA's project awards are based on the same income guidelines as is the Town weatherization opportunity. In fact, I discovered all area award opportunities utilize the same income guidelines which makes partnering very easy. An applicant who qualifies for one opportunity qualifies for all.

Ultimately we formed three (3) partnerships. Those partnerships include; Better Housing for Tompkins County, Tompkins Community Action and the Tompkins County Office for the Aging. Typically, each of our three partners have much greater fund opportunities. Each offer weatherization and home rehabilitation.

There is one drawback. Each partner generally has an awardee contribution requirement. Similar to the Dryden Town Home Rehabilitation opportunity, each have a requirement for the awardee to remain in the home for a period of time after the project completion or, some or the entire award must be repaid. Generally that period is five (5) years. The Town weatherization award has neither fund participation nor fund repayment.

Other agency project qualification requirements are very similar to the Town's which again makes for easy partnering; the major exception being awardee contribution. Quite common is a \$1500 awardee contribution. Other agencies were finding, as the Town discovered with weatherization funding, it was somewhat difficult for awardees to come up with matching funds. After some discussion, the Town found a solution to this dilemma. The Town determined it would be appropriate for Town weatherization awards to be used for an awardees other agency fund match obligation. Generally, the other agency invoices the Town after work has been completed for the match requirement not to exceed \$1500. This arrangement has worked very well. Typically these match projects are roof replacements and other major weatherization type projects.

2010 is off to a good start. So far this year eight (8) Dryden Town weatherization projects have been approved. To date only one has been completed. Two (2) are TCA partner projects and a third is awaiting for Better Housing for Tompkins County approval and the other four (4) are awaiting summer weather for their work to begin.

So far the Dryden Town weatherization opportunity has been well utilized. Area housing stock has been improved and stabilized. We have had and continue to improve on the value of our awards by partnering with other agency opportunities.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying for Town of Dryden Weatherization Grant funds, you can contact Henry Slater, Director of Planning, Building & Zoning Code Enforcement, either by email at zoning@dryden.ny.us or by calling 607-844-8888 and selecting option 2.

