



The Guide

Town of Duane Newsletter
May 2021
Vol. 13 No. 2

Hello Duane!

Spring is in full swing and it's the perfect time to welcome back The Guide and our beloved residents and neighbors! 2020 was quite a year and it brought along plenty of changes. So, let's get caught up!

I would like to start by introducing myself. My name is Ashley and I am fairly new to the town of Duane. My husband and I purchased property off the Glasgow Road about five years ago. Our plans at the time only saw this spot as a small getaway to share with our family. Upon spending a summer here in Duane, we quickly came to realize that there was more to this town than the peaceful woods and the mesmerizing night skies... we found a town that truly embodied community. We made our official move up about a year and a half ago, and in that time our family has grown (we now have three little ones), Luis joined the Duane Volunteer Fire Department and I have taken on writing for the Guide.

We are thankful for our new neighbors who have graciously accepted and embraced our little family, and for that I am honored to be the new voice of The Guide. It goes without saying that the town of Duane is so grateful for Gary Cringe's dedication to the town newsletter for the last 13 years. I will give my all to fill his role and continue in keeping this wonderful gem going for our town.

The Duane Volunteer Fire Department and the Duane Angels were true beacons last year. When the world felt turned upside down, the fire department organized the delivery of free masks and sanitizer to

2020 was rough, but the Town of Duane reminded us that through community, we can withstand any storm together.

residents and even a lasagna dinner for those needing a helping hand. Through their creativity, they found great ways to lift Duane's spirits during the holidays. While Halloween looked very different from what you've come to expect in our town, the town's children were invited to dress up in

costume and pick up their big bag of treats at the Halloween Trick or Treat Drive-Through Event. Our volunteer fire fighters shined brightly at the Malone Parade of Lights and then our biggest gift of the season...? Santa proving that even a pandemic can't keep him from his yearly visits to Duane! The volunteer fire department gave jolly St. Nick a ride through the town, making stops to say hi, take a few photos and drop off gift bags to over 40 children. While we all had to manage a year of social distancing and working or learning virtually, the Duane Volunteer Fire Department and the Duane Angels went above and beyond to remind us all that we are not alone, we are in it together. So we thank our firefighters, angels, and especially our residents who continue to donate to make special events like this possible!

The Guide Editor, Ashley Pinilla
email: TheGuideNewsletter@gmail.com

Town Supervisor	Superintendent of Highways	Town Clerk Tax Collector	Town Justice Judge	Assessor	Code Enforcement	Animal Control Officer
Ned LeMieux, Sr. (518) 483-4768	Ned LeMieux, Jr. (518) 483-3809	Sue Nitto (518) 483-1617	Eleanor Fallon (518) 483-0517	Pamela Sloate (518) 483-0197	Bob Crossman (518) 651-4280	Kim Barcomb (518) 651-1376

Happy 50th Anniversary!

On September 19th 2020, the Duane Volunteer Fire Station celebrated 50 years in service to the Town of Duane. Members and representatives from neighboring departments were in attendance to honor the dedicated men and women who have served as members to DVFD.



*TO OUR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS,
PAST AND PRESENT:
FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS, THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE!*

Spring Town-Wide Garage Sale Is Back!

On the weekend of June 19th and 20th, the Duane Angels will sponsor their biennial town-wide garage sale at the fire department. This year's fundraiser will include a bake sale, large garage sale at the fire station, to-go lunch, and a raffle! Residents may also choose to donate items for the FD's garage sale. All proceeds from the Duane Angels hosted sales will go to Duane Volunteer Fire Department. This year they are raising money for Hydraulic Rescue Tools to aide in removing patients from automobile accidents. Please keep a look out for the notice being mailed with further details. You may also find updates on the town website - www.duaneny.com

Covid-19 Guidance The Franklin County website offers regularly updated information, public communication on Covid-19, and Covid-19 Vaccination Clinics. For more information, visit:

https://www.franklincountyny.gov/residents/covid-19_guidance

Covid-19 Call Center: (518)481-1111

*SPECIAL THANKS AND
RECOGNITION TO THE
FOLLOWING MEMBERS:*

50

Years of Service

**RICHARD BROWN
GIL PADDOCK
NED LEMIEUX SR.**

40

Years of Service

JANINE PADDOCK

30

Years of Service

NED LEMIEUX JR.

**For Fire and Rescue
Emergency dial 911**

Duane Fire Station:
(518)483-0386

Duane's Summer Hot Spot: Debar View

Winter may be trying hard to stick around a bit longer, but we are ready to let it go! And our first stop for the warmer seasons? Debar View! Get those picnic baskets ready, because you'll want to plan your next day trip to this beautiful property, graciously donated by Sharon L. Serzon and Thomas J. Green, Jr.



This hidden oasis is sprawling with groomed trails leading to captivating views of both Debar Mountain and Furnace Mountain. Local resident, Marvin Raville, has devoted much of his time and resources since last spring in clearing, cleaning, and creating a wonderful space for his Duane neighbors. Every detail has been so thoughtfully executed. We found plenty of seating and picnic tables, each spot offering a unique perspective to the grand views. Your perfect day at Debar View can include fishing, kayaking, bird watching, and even a hot meal at any of the fire rings equipped with grilling utensils.

We had the pleasure of chatting with Marvin about his work on the property. He first came to know about the donated property after seeing the work being done on the parking lot. His curiosity sent him visiting almost every day and he fell in love with the views.

It was the second week of March 2020, at the start of what turned out to be a rough year, when he started his first project – putting up the American Flag. From there, he started to clean up the brush and trees, other odds and ends, and he said “I just kept going.” Marvin's own residence off of Rt 30 is known for his beautiful landscaping and flowers that he typically budgets \$1200–\$1500 annually. While sharing how much he has enjoyed working on the property, he joked about how many might be surprised with his landscaping this year, but he decided to use his budget towards the improvements at Debar View. I asked what his favorite part of the property was – he enjoys the views of Debar Mountain. In fact, he is always making note of which branches need to be trimmed back to ensure that from any seat on the property, you can see Debar.



I hope you will all have a chance to visit this amazing spot. During our last visit, my kids were especially excited to spot all the bird feeders hanging in the trees and they loved the picnic table on top of the rock. Our next visit will most likely be an evening visit, as I am sure the golden hour and evening skies won't disappoint from there. I would love to hear what you enjoyed most about Debar View! Email TheGuideNewsletter@gmail.com to share notes about your visit!

The **Town Board Meetings** are currently being held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 10AM via Zoom until further notice. If you wish to be placed on the agenda, please contact the Town Clerk.

Senator Dan Stec visits Debar Lodge

Prepared by: Susan Glenny

NY Senator Dan Stec, R-Queensbury, visited Debar Lodge with Executive Director Steven Engelhart of the Adirondack Architectural Heritage and members of the Duane Town Board as the quest to save Debar Lodge from demolition moves forward.

Senator Stec was duly impressed with his first visit to the Lodge and reported that there is Legislative interest in passing an amendment which would be required to permit a Land Exchange with the State of New York thereby allowing the Lodge and six acres to be refurbished for outdoor recreation use. It would take two different legislative sessions to amend the Constitution, but "there is interest on both sides of the isle and in both Houses," per Stec "to figure this amendment out."

Steven Engelhart gave credit to the town of Duane for their support of the Debar Pond Institute, a non-profit organization, working to aid the preservation of the lodge. The Town Board passed a resolution in January to support The Institute, understanding that local, regional and state support is crucial to the success of the proposed project.

The desire to save Debar Lodge has followed a somewhat complicated path. Several attempts have been made for nearly 20 years to preserve the historic property, which has an intriguing history. Supervisor Ned LeMieux, Sr. along with other townspeople have sustained a nearly 20-year mission to save the Lodge.

Town Website

We encourage you to check out the newly updated website for Duane. You'll find the most up to date information, including current news.

www.DUANENY.com

Know Before You Go:

Hiking the High Peaks Region

The DEC and Adirondack Mountain Reserve have launched their reservation pilot program. This program comes as an effort to manage visitor traffic and improve safety issues by limiting parking availability within the privately owned lands of the AMR. Check out the DEC and AMR websites to see if your intended hike requires a parking pass, as it only applies to some of the popular hikes.

www.hikeamr.org

www.dec.ny.gov

**Hike Smart! Be Prepared
Leave No Trace**

HISTORICAL NOTES

The Great Adirondack Camps on Upper St. Regis Lake

Prepared By: Gloria Gori, Town Historian

In my research, I found two local people that had the good fortune to find employment at the Great Adirondack Camps on Upper St. Regis Lake in the 1930s. My two daughters, fifty years later also found the same employment but not on the grand scale of the 30s.

Evelyn Farley wrote about her experience for the Franklin Historical Review, Vol. 20, 1983. Evelyn worked for Mrs. Merryweather Post and for Mr. and Mrs. Slade. Mrs. Slade's father, Cyrus McCormick, was credited for the invention of the McCormick Reaper. Many of the families who were members of the "Famous 400 Club" had sprawling camps all along the lake front. A Mr. Dustin designed a camp layout that included up to twenty or

(continued on page 5)

The Great Adirondack Camps *(continued from page 4)*

more buildings. One of the largest buildings was the dining hall that would easily seat fifty or more guests. A small butler kitchen set off from the dining hall is where the waitresses prepared the salads and desserts. All of the fine china and crystal were stored there as well. A door from there opened into a kitchen that held a mammoth wood cook stove. All food was prepared from wood heat, because it tasted better. There was a cottage for a comfortable living room and a cottage for a game room. The main cottage was where the family stayed and then several individual buildings were for their guests. Some buildings were very crude platforms covered with canvas tents. There was an ice house, a laundry, a well-equipped large shop, a winterized guide house, wood sheds, help quarters and several boat houses.

Even during depression, the family still hired 35 – 39 people. Some of the staff traveled with the families and the rest had to be hired from the local community. The caretakers were self-taught and a jack of all trades, besides being an excellent woodsman. They were responsible for keeping the camp in proper shape, maintaining all the boats and also act as guides for fishing, hunting, hiking, and

camping. In the winter they had to shovel all the camp roofs, cut a good supply of wood and ice, as well as making needed repairs. Everyone was paid by city standards, which meant the wage was many times as much as the local wage. The season lasted 6 months leaving the winter months pretty easy. This is how Easy Street located between Paul Smiths and Gabriels got its name.

The highlights of the summer were the Sailboat Races hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Slade at

Camp Underpines. All were dressed in full Naval Uniform to manipulate the boats. On an ordinary day the afternoon was spent with some of the help rowing the families from camp to camp for “tea or coffee” at every stop. No outboards were allowed, the guide boat was the most favorite to use. Evelyn worked as a kitchen maid and second waitress. She would also take the teenagers camping on overnights and was responsible for making all meals for them. On their time off in the evening, they would canoe to a leanto over on Bear Pond where they could enjoy a great bonfire and cook their evening meal.

Source: Brown, James C. “Reminiscences of an Old-Time Adirondack Caretaker-Guide.”
Franklin Historical Review,
Vol. 19 – 1982

Editor's Note:

Gloria Gori's Historical notes were a staple in The Guide. This article is her last submission. Gloria, thank you for your wonderful articles, they were a true pleasure to read.

Family Game Night Returns!

We are excited to announce our first Game Night/Ice Cream Social of the season! Please join us at the Little White Church on:

Wednesday, June 30th 6pm - 8pm

Our first event will give us the opportunity to discuss and share future events with residents. Future events throughout the season will be posted on the church sign. We look forward to seeing our neighbors!

Upcoming Dates and Events

19 May	Monthly Town Board Meeting Wed, 10AM via Zoom	30 June	Game Night / Ice Cream Social Wed, 6PM – 8PM The Little White Church
20 May	JCEO Food Pantry Fri, 12:30PM – 4:00PM Duane Fire Station	21 July	Monthly Town Board Meeting Wed, 10AM via Zoom
25 May	Grievance Day Tues, 4PM – 8PM Duane Fire Station	23 July	JCEO Food Pantry Fri, 12:30PM – 4:00PM Duane Fire Station
16 June	Monthly Town Board Meeting Wed, 10AM via Zoom	18 Aug	Monthly Town Board Meeting Wed, 10AM via Zoom
19 June	Town Wide Garage Sale Sat, 8AM – 5PM Duane Fire Station	27 Aug	JCEO Food Pantry Fri, 12:30PM – 4:00PM Duane Fire Station
20 June	Town Wide Garage Sale Sun, 9AM – 3PM Duane Fire Station	15 Sept	Monthly Town Board Meeting Wed, 10AM via Zoom
25 June	JCEO Food Pantry Fri, 12:30PM – 4:00PM Duane Fire Station	24 Sept	Food Pantry Fri, 12:30PM – 4:00PM Duane Fire Station

Grievance Day

The Assessment Review Board will hold “Grievance Day” at the Duane Fire Station to hear complaints in relation to assessments pursuant to Section 512 of the NYS Real Property Tax Law. You may download the form RP-524 from www.tax.ny.gov/forms or call Pamela Sloate at to request a form by mail.

<p>JCEO Food Pantry Gloria Gori (518)483-4369</p>
