

# Town of Johnsburg Newsletter

## Supervisor's Report

### Short Takes

#### Cell Service

Quiet progress is being made on efforts to site a cell tower on private property south of the hamlet of North Creek. If this effort proves successful, a second tower will be pursued in the Wevertown area with efforts to spread coverage all along the Route 8 and Route 28 corridor.

#### New ZEO

The Town Board has appointed Chris May as the new Zoning Enforcement Officer, replacing Ed Tuttle. Chris began work amid a flurry of activity as the Front Street project broke ground his first week in office.

#### Interconnect Timeline

At the print deadline for this newsletter, the cutting crew at the Ski Bowl has nearly completed a re-cut of the entire lift line. Next, the historic Ridge Trail will be re-cut from bottom to top. Thereafter, Oak Ridge and a further connector from the base of the Burnt Ridge Pod to the Summit of the Ski Bowl.

#### Highway Planning

Several meetings have occurred between Superintendent Dan Hitchcock, Supervisor Sterling Goodspeed, councilmen Gene Arsenault and Arnold Stevens and town bookkeeper Candace Lomax in an effort to chart a long range plan for the highway department. The challenge is to continue to rebuild the fleet in a difficult economic environment while addressing road concerns.

#### Budget Prep

Work on preparation of the 2010 town budget is in full swing. Continuing to control taxes without sacrificing services is a huge challenge, particularly in a climate of volatile gas prices, declining sales tax and the state budget crisis.

### It Happened in the Summer of 09

Both tumultuous and transitional, the Summer of 09 is one that will be remembered at Town Hall for its frantic pace, financial challenges and fundamental commercial and recreational growth. The story needs no narrative, rather the assembly of events in one place serves as testament to this break through season. Here's my best shot at doing just that.

- On May 8 the ORDA board voted unanimously to operate the interconnect lift at the Ski Bowl. The decision came after a strong local lobby effort to support the lift's operation and several tense meetings in Lake Placid.
- The Town and ORDA embarked on a joint rehab project of the old enclosed pavilion which will serve as a winter ski lodge and prime summer park and youth program addition.
- Grant work began in earnest in the Park with court resurfacing. The community garden blossomed yet again
- ORDA trail cutting crews began cutting the interconnect trail from the base of Burnt Ridge to the Summit of the Ski Bowl but then paused pending news of a lawsuit filed by the Residents Committee to Protect the Adirondacks group.
- Facing a budget crisis of unparalleled proportions, Warren County laid off 22 workers in June and requested various county unions to reopen contract negotiations.
- Rainy weather and busy beavers led to a wash out on the rail line one mile south of Riparius with a projected repair bill of \$120,000 +/-.
- Supervisors throughout the summer worked on more cost cutting items including more possible layoffs, work furloughs and retirement incentive planning.
- The North Creek Business Alliance continued its efforts for Main Street to prosper and speak with a cohesive voice while the Chamber of Commerce moved forward with its branding project.
- A new reopened Copperfield Inn continued interior renovations.
- Johnsburg ZEO resigned and after a search was replaced by Chris May.
- Using CHIPS funds the town board in conjunction with Highway Superintendent Dan Hitchcock purchased a new truck for just less than \$200,000.00
- The Town Board in conjunction with Delaware Systems began work which may result in a

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## Summer 09 Cont.

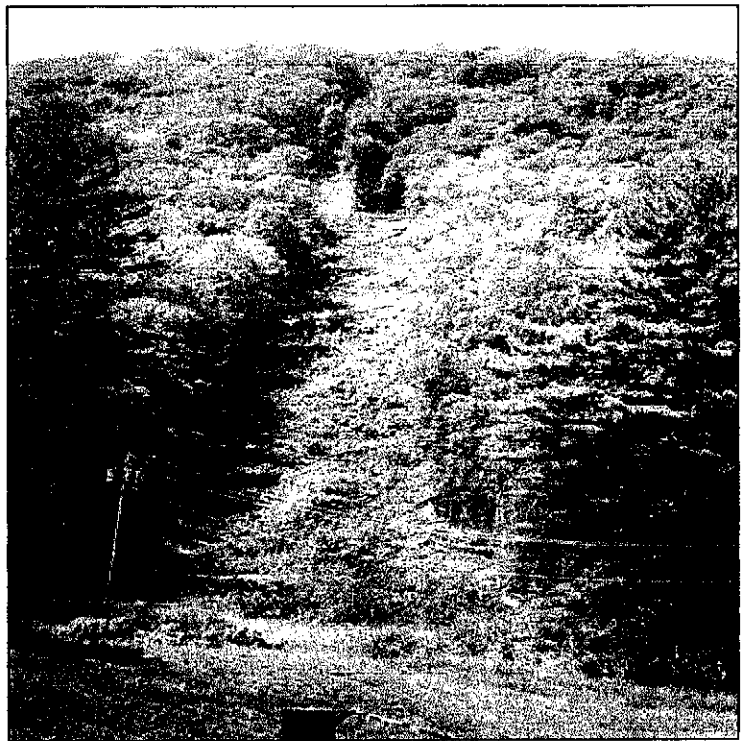
\$1.1 Million rehab of the water district.

- The Town explored short and long-term plans for solving the beach water level problem with much volunteer assistance from the Park Committee.
- During the second week of July, the town and ORDA learned that the Residents Committee lawsuit was dismissed by Supreme Court.
- Re-cutting of the interconnect trail began again and on July 28 a crew began to re-cut the old lift line which once housed the first cable t-bar in America (1945) and will house shortly the interconnect chairlift. After the lift line, the Ridge Trail will be re-cut and renovations to the pavilion completed.
- On July 17, ground was broken at the Front Street Project.
- The Town worked in conjunction with the Garnet Lake Homeowner's Association to move towards compliance with DEC in regards to new dam regulations.
- The Town met with Austin Pond residents and began efforts to formulate a solution to massive and potentially dangerous water impoundment by the beaver population. DEC officials changed with enforcing the dam regulations in areas like Garnet Lake refused to attend a planning meeting aimed at solving the beaver problem.
- Press coverage of Gore, Johnsbury and North Creek appeared in the NY Times, Albany Times Union, Ski Magazine, News-Enterprise, Glens Falls Chronicle and Post Star, Governing Magazine to name a few.
- Town Hall personnel (particularly Candace Lomax) came to crunch time in the management of several grants ranging from the Riverfront Revitalization to computer hardware and parks.
- A highly successful farmer's market debuted at the Waddell/Kellog property and grew throughout the summer, thanks to a great crew of volunteers led by Barbara Thomas. The farmer's market is held every Thursday and on many of these evenings there were upward of 200 people in attendance.
- Test balloons flew and conceptual materials were provided to the APA for a first cell tower. The tower must be designed to be materially invisible. While the first tower will service North Creek, plans are to next seek a southern location that can move consistent coverage to areas such as Wevertown, Bakers Mills and Johnsbury.
- The County Board grappled through summer on program and infrastructure elimination to save more dollars and cut the budget shortfall.
- Transfer from the OSI to Warren County of the riverfront Kellogg/Owens property was delayed due to the discovery of an historic oil spill. Even during the delay, grant work continued in conjunction with the Warren County Planning Dept. to move forward with grant funded infrastructure improvements on site.

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*Volunteers work at the community garden at Ski Bowl Park*



*Trail cutting at Ski Bowl Park*

(Summer, cont)

- Efforts are underway to put together a proposed 2010 town budget. The Town Board was able to slightly lower taxes last year.
- Careful detail work continues to make sure that developers are not just in compliance with local rules, but also with legal changes made to protect and enhance town water, EMS and fire protection. With groundbreaking at Front Street for example, attention is directed toward implementation of massive water code changes that were initiated to protect and grow existing infrastructure and shift costs to developers