



Spring/Summer 2009

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1



located. Thanks to Bob and Ron.

The Town Board continues to pay attention to the results of the Town satisfaction survey that was completed in the Fall of 2008. Basic results are available on the Town website but response to concerns of residents that were addressed in the “comments,” are ongoing. Some of these are addressed here :



Memorial Day, 2009. There was no parade in the Town of Nelson this year, but the people who gave their lives in the various wars to keep this country free from the never ending quest of tyrants who want to rule other people, were remembered on this May 25<sup>th</sup> day. Floral sprays and flags were placed at the corners in both Nelson and Erieville where permanent markers are

As residents living in and around the hamlet of Erieville are aware, a very big road construction project is to be undertaken by the county highway department this summer. Tree work is done and eight new culverts have been installed under Erieville Road. The restructuring of the cross roads will take about four months and is to begin in July. Some people wanted to see sidewalks revived in the hamlet of Erieville (also in Nelson.) The new resurfacing and reconfiguration of the roadway that is occurring right now in Erieville should have wider shoulders that would make walking more user friendly. However, there is not funding for sidewalks. Also, there is not enough room on the roadsides as the road is wider than it was in the past. Another issue is, that in an area that has sidewalks, there needs to be an actual “district” created to maintain them. Erievillians already are in a water district and a lighting district and having sidewalks would necessitate another expense for hamlet residents. If you’re interested in seeing a drawing of the scope of this project, check in at Kay’s Store.

The center of Erieville is also looking at having to replace the 28 year old water tank that serves the water district which impacts about 50 families. The town supervisor has been attempting to secure some outside funding for this project for several years. Meanwhile the tank spouts more and more leaks that are plugged with wooden pegs. Without a grant or loan or some combination, the residents of the hamlet will be faced with a big debt and increase in their water bills.

Communication between the town government and the residents is difficult in a town that is spread out as ours is and with independent residents each engaged in their own pursuits and not paying particular attention to local happenings. Our “official” publication for Public Notices, those things that it is required be publicly advertised, is the Cazenovia Republican. Notices are also posted on the bulletin board at the Town Office Building. The minutes of all the board meetings are updated regularly and posted on the town website. (<http://www.townofnelson-ny.com>) Some intermittent notices, such as the recent clean up day particulars, are published in the Hi Neighbor.

The Town of Nelson Highway Department maintains 54 miles of roadway. If you check the comparative expenses of highway departments in other nearby towns, (it’s on the website) you will see that our budget is quite modest. Although there was praise for our crew for winter management, it was summer activity that received a few criticisms. Road maintenance is time consuming work and it may appear to some that there are too many people just standing around. Well, looks can be deceiving. Spend a few hours sometime watching a highway crew replacing a culvert, e.g.

Also, there are some who are confused about just which roads are the responsibility of the Town of Nelson. All the roads that have a blue sign with a number are county roads and are maintained by The Madison County Highway Department. These roads begin in one town and end in another. e.g.:



Both the Tuscarora Lake Association and the Eatonbrook Lake Association have held the first of their two summer meetings for the year. Both lakes have a July 4<sup>th</sup> boat parade scheduled for two p.m. and a lighting of flares around the lake, after dark. Tuscarora Lake seems to have fewer problems than Eaton

Brook Lake. The latter is subject to more runoff from animal waste from farms that lie upland and add excessive nitrogen to the water. Also, Eatonbrook has been “invaded” by one particularly obnoxious weed called Eurasian milfoil. The lake has a public boat launch and organisms, either visible as weeds or microscopic, can be transported from one body of water to another on the bottoms of boats. Individual boaters can greatly assist in the effort to keep the lakes clear of invasives by cleaning their watercraft before going to a different lake and/or keeping their boats out of the water for three days before entering a new body of water. Tuscarora Lake has no formal public launch although non powered watercraft can be put into the lake in a number of places. The “warning” sign is to alert boaters not to pick up “hitchhikers.” A couple of the more cost friendly and easier ways to deal with weed growth are drawing down the lake water over the winter; (weeds die when not in water.) Another is the addition of a peculiar fish called a grass carp. These are shy, vegetarian creatures, who munch on water plants. They can grow up to 4 feet long and weigh 40 pounds and can be quite an amazing sight, singularly or in a group. A state permit is required to seed a lake with these sterile fish as they must be confined in the body of water where you want to control the weeds.



The Town Clerk is now on summer hours. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9-1. Sue will schedule individual meetings at other times so just call 655-8582, ext 1, to set up an appointment as needed.

The Heritage Society meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. The June meeting will be at the Town Office Building. The meeting places alternate between Nelson and the firehouse in Erieville. New members or just people interested in the history of the area are always welcome.

A community luncheon is held every third Wednesday at the Erieville Firehouse at noon. As organizer, Carol Booth, likes to say, bring a dish to pass, your own table service and a smile.

Town Board meetings are every second Thursday and Planning Board meetings every second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Town Office Building.

Madison County will hold its 170<sup>th</sup> fair in Brookfield on July 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. This event, given new impetus by our newly appointed county historian, Mary Messere, may spark the revival of the fair on a county level or the demise of it. Other surrounding counties, have their fairs in rather remote locations, as people view Brookfield to be, so let's see whether this endeavor is a viable one for our county.

Farmland protection is an ongoing issue. Our rural scenery may just be our biggest asset here. There is ongoing pressure about gas drilling. Please check with our active community group before signing onto anything as an individual. Contact Roger, 655-9573, with any questions.