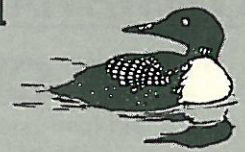


The Adirondack Council NEWSLETTER



February 1988

COUNCIL SUES ON WILDERNESS VIOLATION

The Adirondack Council has initiated a lawsuit against New York State for allowing the use of floatplanes on Whitney Lake in the West Canada Lake Wilderness. The suit was filed with the state's Supreme Court in Essex County on December 28.

In the State Land Master Plan for the Adirondack Park, a fundamental rule governing the management of Wilderness is that no previously authorized motorized recreation shall be allowed to continue for more than three years after an area has been classified as Wilderness. The Council is suing both the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation for violating this stricture. In 1984, both agencies supported a resolution permitting floatplanes to land on Whitney Lake for 10 years after the lake, and the surrounding Perkins Clearing tract, had been recommended for Wilderness classification.

The Council's lawsuit follows official approval by Governor Cuomo of the revised State Land Master Plan classifying some 32,000 acres of state-owned Forest Preserve. In approving the revisions, the Governor automatically put

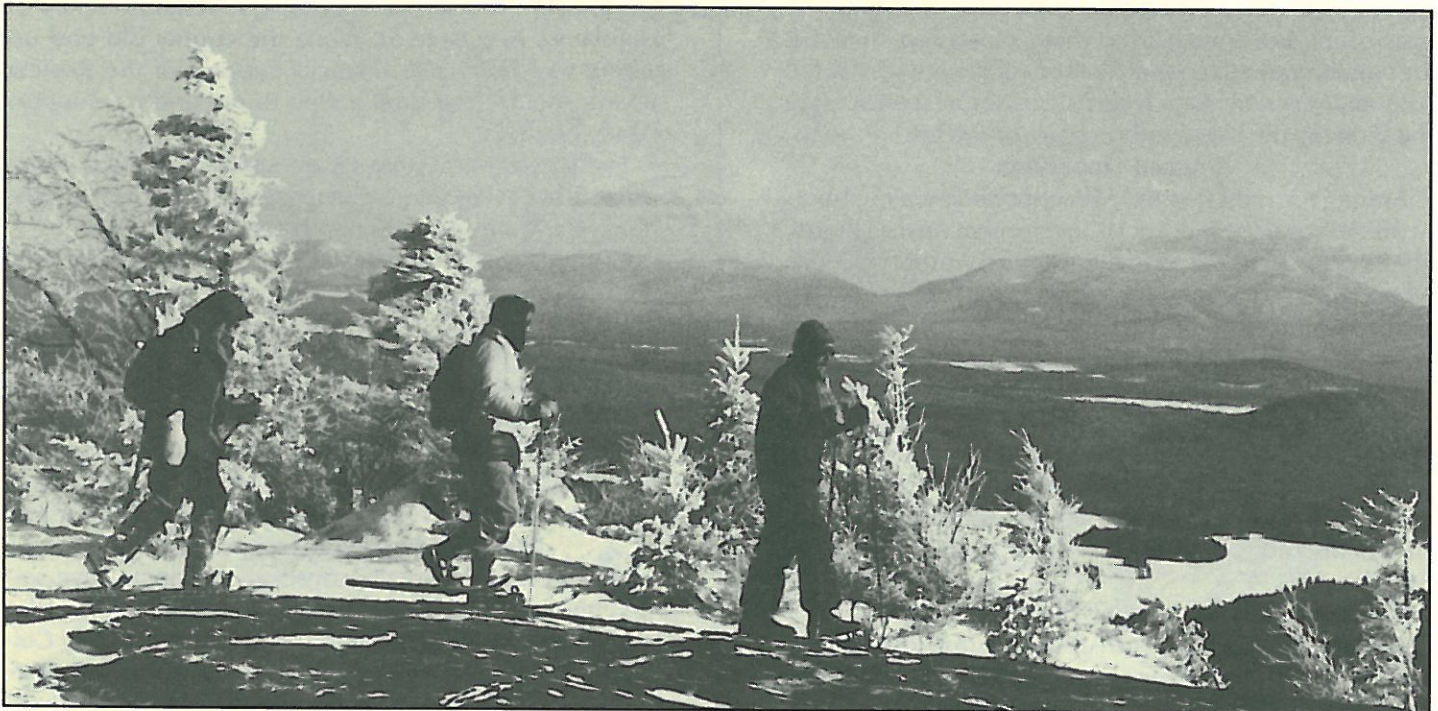
into effect the provision allowing continuation of floatplanes on Whitney Lake.

Whitney Lake is part of the 17,000-acre Perkins Clearing tract obtained by the State in a voter-approved land swap with International Paper Company in 1979. Most of the Perkins Clearing land is now part of the West Canada Lake Wilderness, situated in the southwest Adirondacks near Speculator, Lake Pleasant and Piseco.

In its lawsuit, the Council contends that the effect of the 1984 resolution allowing floatplanes on Whitney Lake is unlawful in either of two ways:

- 1) The resolution classifies a portion of the Perkins Clearing area (Whitney Lake) as Wilderness but with conditions that violate the management guidelines of the State Land Master Plan, or
- 2) The resolution illegally amends the guidelines by creating a new Wilderness classification that is less restrictive concerning motorized use.

See pages 6-7 for more on the Adirondack Wilderness System.



SNOWSHOERS ARRIVE ON WINDSWEPT SUMMIT OF ST. REGIS MOUNTAIN

COMMENTARY**THE GREENING OF THE ADIRONDACKS**

When the Adirondack Park Agency's zoning plan was enacted by the State Legislature 15 years ago, all hell broke loose in the North Country.

In no time, "speak outs" were being staged throughout the Park at which aggrieved persons stood before microphones and recited "horror stories" of ill treatment suffered at the hands of an overzealous Park Agency.

Bumper stickers proclaimed: "APA — ANOTHER NAME FOR TYRANNY!"

One APA staff member was smacked by an enraged woman and other staff had their tires slashed. A pile of horse manure was dumped on the APA's doorstep, and one night a masked vigilante got caught trying to burn down the APA's log office building.

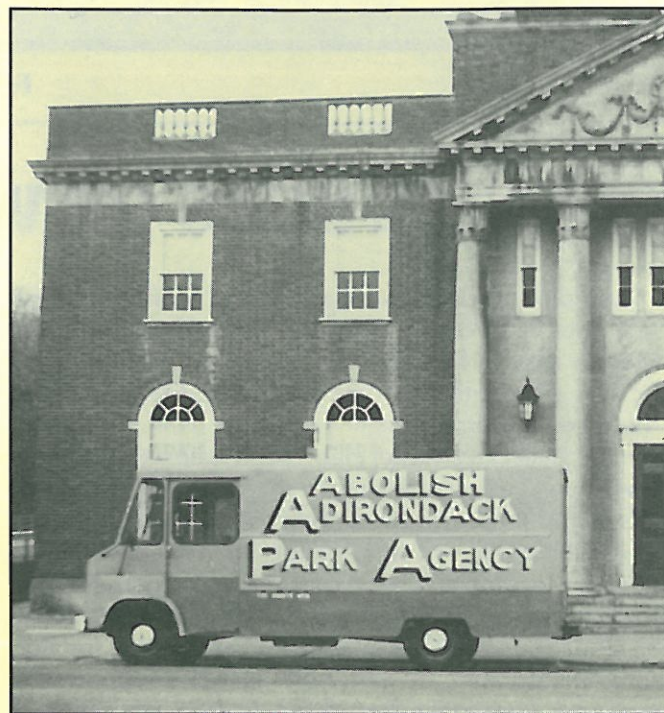
Granted, this was not quite the grassroots uprising it was sometimes made out to be. The "rebellion" was, in reality, a carefully orchestrated effort by some Adirondack landowners whose visions of profitable land sales or development had been curtailed by the new zoning regulations. By playing on the widespread fears and confusion surrounding the complicated new zoning law, imposed on a region where no real land-use controls had ever before existed, the APA's opponents fanned the flames of resentment for well over a decade. Adding fuel to the fire were many local government officials who felt that their authority to regulate land use had been usurped by the State.

Now, 15 years down the road, the winter of discontent may be giving way to spring. The more contact Adirondack residents have had with the Adirondack Park Agency, the more evident it has become that the APA restrictions don't much affect them. Nowadays, in fact, it isn't uncommon to hear an Adirondacker admit that the APA might not be such a bad idea after all, considering the growing development pressure of the last two years.

Dogged Opponents

Among the most dogged APA opponents are members of the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board. The Review Board's prime mover is Anthony D'Elia, whose personal development plans for Loon Lake, in the northern Adirondacks, fell through in the mid-1970s. D'Elia has always held the APA responsible for the collapse of his dream, and he has been single-minded in his campaign against this agency. He and the Review Board ostensibly "monitor, assist and advise" the APA and represent Adirondack interests in the regulating process. In practice, the Review Board has worked non-stop since 1973 to discredit, weaken and — if it could — abolish the APA.

Recently D'Elia complained to news reporters that his opponents (presumably the APA) were bugging his telephone. If D'Elia had come up with that kind of accusation a few years ago, many Adirondackers would have been ready to believe him. The prospect of clandestine enemy



Gary Randorf

ABOLITIONIST CRUSADE, CIRCA 1975

surveillance would have made great material for another horror story to enliven anti-APA rallies.

Today, such behavior is considered bizarre and even a little embarrassing in communities that were once a hotbed of APA opposition. In Tupper Lake, D'Elia was recently taken to task for "making a public spectacle of himself" by the chairman of the Franklin County Board of Legislators (*see page 5*). While the county did end up voting to continue its financial support of the Review Board, for the first time a vote to discontinue support nearly carried.

The message from the local legislators seemed clear: unless the Review Board changes its negative and unproductive ways, its days are numbered.

Historically, the impetus for preserving the Adirondacks has come from outside the region. Now there appears to be a growing preservationist sentiment within the Park as well. Letters to local newspapers, voices raised at public meetings, murmurings from planning board members, and enrollment in organizations like the Adirondack Council bespeak what may be a growing regional pride and determination — pride in the natural attributes of the Adirondacks and a determination to protect them.

Environmental Consciousness Grows

Many environmentally-conscious residents have settled here since 1973. The newcomers range from graduates of Paul Smith's and North Country Community College to retired summer people now living here full-time. Many of them have seen how quickly natural values have been destroyed elsewhere — and they do not want such

COMMENTARY CONTINUED

"progress" inflicted on the Adirondack Park. Others are native Adirondackers like Ernie LaPrairie, the new breed of Adirondack guide who speaks eloquently for preserving his legacy of wild lands and waters.

The signs of changing attitudes are everywhere. The Adirondack Park Agency's enforcement effort is greatly aided by residents who report development projects that appear to violate APA regulations. Planning and zoning officials in the southern Adirondacks, where development pressure is greatest, have even been heard to say that the APA land use controls don't go far enough.

As many affluent Americans scramble for their own piece of the Adirondack outback, the realization is taking hold that even under the APA law, the privately-owned lakeshores of the Adirondacks can be developed far more intensively than they ought to be. Despite the APA restrictions, much of the presently undisturbed backcountry can be subdivided and conquered by the new wave of land merchants who have discovered gold in these mountains and lakes.

Other changes can be seen. Nine towns have switched from the traditional chemical warfare against blackflies to a biological control that is safer and healthier for everybody but the blackfly (*see pages 10-11*). In much of the Adirondack Park, winters are more peaceful now as snowmobiles become less noisy and less numerous, and cross-country skiing gains in popularity.

Essex County has questioned the environmental soundness of a proposal to dump toxic ash in Lewis (*page 10*). Local residents are challenging state plans for a boat launching site on Chazy Lake that could lead to environmental disruption (*page 4*).

With all this comes a growing awareness that the Park's economic future, as well as its quality of life, depends on preserving the wildness and natural beauty that will bring tourists here in increasing numbers. As we move on into 1988, the greening of the Adirondacks from inside the "blue line" appears to have begun in earnest.

Dick Beamish



"I love this planet!"

PROJECT CHALLENGED

The Adirondack Council has challenged the need for a new boat launch facility proposed for Chazy Lake in the northern Adirondacks. Before this state project can go forward, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) must approve the reclassification of 3.5 acres of public land to the Intensive Use category.

The Council posed the following questions to the APA:

"Is it necessary for the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to build a new boat launch site on a relatively small lake that has three boat launch sites already, including a municipal site that could be expanded to provide additional boat access?

"Is the project desirable when 1) it would disturb the natural shoreline of an otherwise undeveloped inlet, 2) the motorboat activity induced by the project could jeopardize the breeding success of resident loons and disturb other wildlife, and 3) the increased motorboat traffic presents a threat to water quality, a nuisance to fishermen and other users, and an assault on the lake's natural tranquility?

"These kinds of questions must be raised for every one of more than 100 boat launch sites now being considered by the DEC for possible development in the Adirondack region," the Council told the APA.

The Council also objected to "the impetuous way the State has gone ahead with site preparation for the Chazy Lake boat launch facility before scheduled public hearings and an environmental impact assessment."

DRIVE EXCEEDS GOAL

When the Adirondack Council launched its membership expansion campaign in early 1987, our goal was to increase membership from 3,000 to 5,000 by the end of 1988.

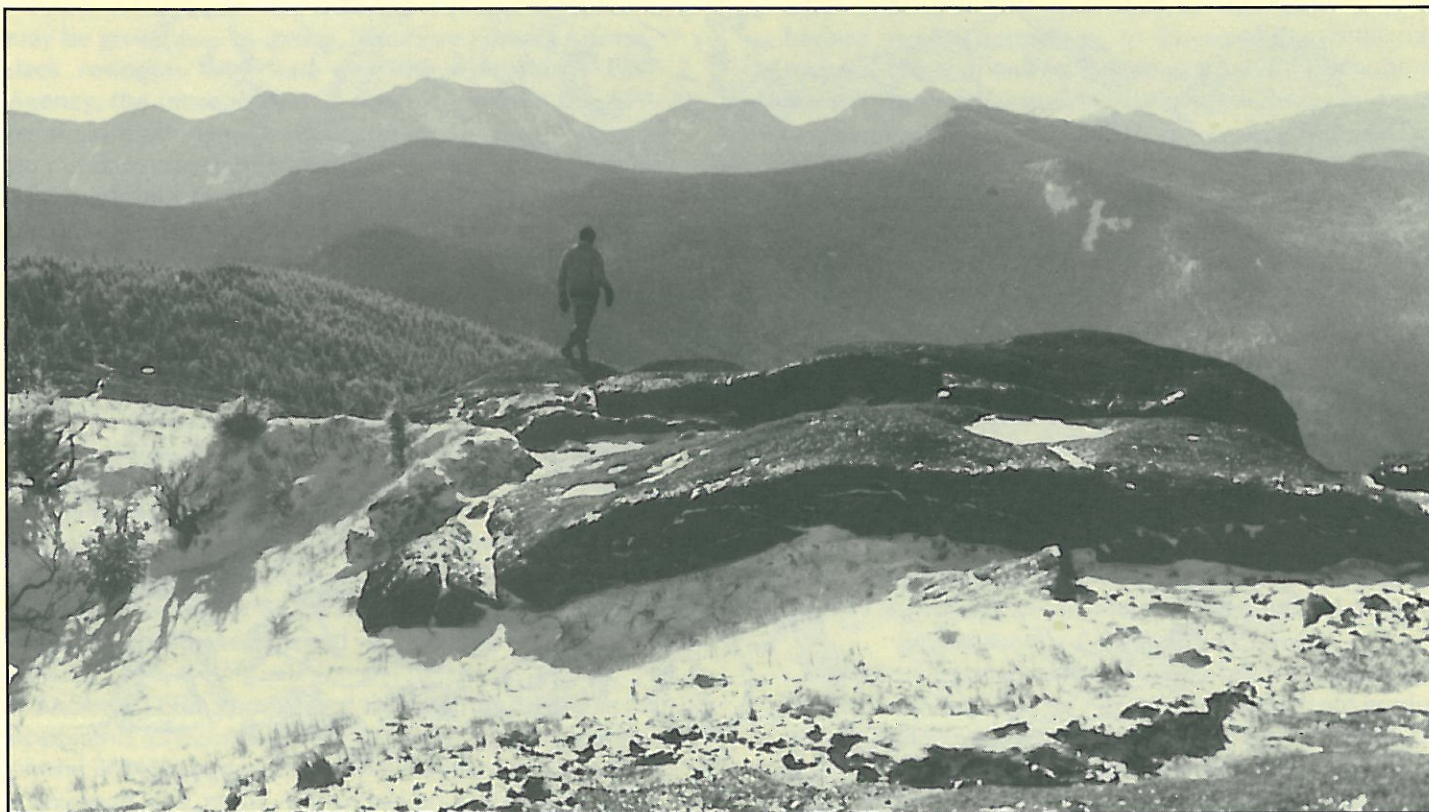
Thanks to an unusually effective direct-mail campaign, we have reached this goal a year ahead of schedule and have revised our target upward to 6,000 members by the end of this year.

But every bit as important as quantity is the *quality* of this membership.

"People join the Adirondack Council for primarily one reason," said executive director Chuck Clusen. "People join not because we offer hiking or birding trips, not because we publish a beautiful magazine. They join for the purpose of protecting the Adirondacks."

"Council members tend to be articulate and they tend to be activists," he noted. "For example, when we send out an Action Alert calling for letters to motivate public officials or lawmakers, an exceptionally high percentage of Council members respond."

"That translates into political clout," said Clusen, who ought to know. He previously served as vice president for conservation of The Wilderness Society and chairman of the nationwide Alaska Coalition that was instrumental in setting aside much of that state in parks, refuges and wilderness areas.



ON CASCADE MOUNTAIN

APA LAND-USE CONTROLS FOUND LACKING

In a recent ADIRONDACK LIFE profile on Pete Sanders, the popular manager of Elk Lake Lodge, one sentence jumped out. "In the days before the Adirondack Park Agency," declared the writer, "the wrong kind of development could have spoiled Elk Lake forever."

The Council's response follows:

Dear Editor:

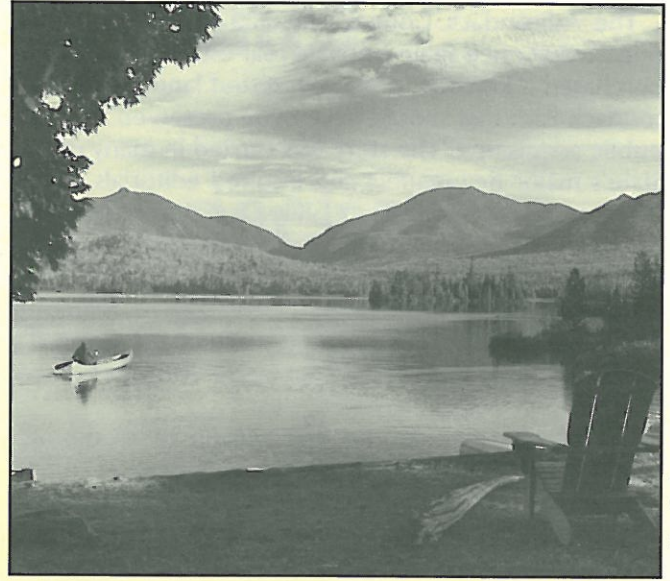
Let's not kid ourselves. With or without the APA's famous land-use controls, the "wrong kind of development" can still do a number on many pristine lakes wholly or partly in private ownership.

Take Elk Lake, for example. If the owners hadn't opted to give the State a preservation easement, hundreds of vacation homes or condominium units could be constructed around that beautiful lake. The APA shoreline restrictions require only that each residence be set back 100 feet from the water and each lot be 200 feet wide.

Today, from the summits of the Dix Range and Nippletop Mountain, the centerpiece of one of the greatest views in the Adirondacks happens to be unspoiled, island-studded Elk Lake. Just imagine how different it would be if Elk Lake were to realize its full development potential under the APA law.

And Elk Lake is in the strictest APA land-use zone! For much of the Adirondack Park, lot width requirements on shorelines range from 50 to 150 feet and setbacks from 50 to 75 feet.

On the other side of the mountains from Elk Lake are the exquisitely beautiful Boreas Ponds adjoining the High Peaks Wilderness Area. These ponds, and a large tract of surrounding land, are owned by Finch-Pruyn Paper Company. Under the APA zoning restrictions, some 500 condo units could be built close by these spectacular



Alan Cederstrom

ELK LAKE

lakes in full view of the publicly-owned mountains all around.

What most distinguishes the Adirondack Park from the rest of the world is its natural waterbodies with their forested shorelines, surrounded by undisturbed hills and mountains. In few other places *anywhere* can you find this kind of unmarred natural beauty.

But the pressures to cash in on this beauty are mounting. Unless the State acquires more easements of the kind that now protect Elk Lake from human "improvement" we will, in the course of our lifetimes, lose many of the park's natural lakeshores to private development.

The Adirondack Council

D'ELIA SAYS HIS TELEPHONE IS BUGGED

Anthony D'Elia has announced that his telephone is being tapped and that his prime suspect is the Adirondack Park Agency (APA). D'Elia, who is executive director of the Local Government Review Board, the organization dedicated to derailing the APA, expressed the opinion that his phone has been bugged by his opponents for more than a year.

Why would the APA want to tap his phone? Because, as reported by the local press, D'Elia believes this land-use regulatory agency lives in fear of the research he is doing in preparation for lawsuits against the APA law in general and APA staff in particular.

Meanwhile, James Frenette, head of the Franklin County Board of Legislators, asserted that D'Elia "was making a public spectacle of himself." For the first time in 15 years, the Franklin County legislators, in a close vote, nearly discontinued the county's annual share of funding (\$6,000) for the Review Board.



TONY D'ELIA

THE PUBLIC LOSES

The Adirondack Council revealed in a recent press release that once again a private real-estate operator has purchased a key tract of wild, forested land in the Adirondack Park that should have been preserved through public acquisition. The story was carried in many of the State's major newspapers and inspired editorials in the *Syracuse Herald-American* ("State Dragging Feet on the Adirondacks"), *Albany Knickerbocker News* ("Time to Buy Wildland"), *Schenectady Gazette* ("DEC Must Be Competitive") and *Newsday* ("New York is Frittering Away Its Wilderness"). An op-ed piece by the Council's executive director also appeared in *The New York Times* (see opposite page).

In a subsequent meeting with Environmental Commissioner Thomas C. Jorling, the Commissioner told Council representatives that their criticism was premature, unfair and misleading. Important public acquisitions are in the works, Jorling said, but he emphasized that these transactions take time. He also insisted that his Department is doing all in its power to streamline the acquisition process.

Triggering the Council's press release was the State's failure to purchase an easement that would have preserved a continuous block of 9,000 undeveloped acres adjacent to the Five Ponds Wilderness near Cranberry Lake. An option on 1,000 acres of this holding was purchased by Patten Corporation, the well-financed, fast-moving subdivider that is leaving few stones unturned in the Adirondacks and the rest of the Northeast.

... AND THEN WINS

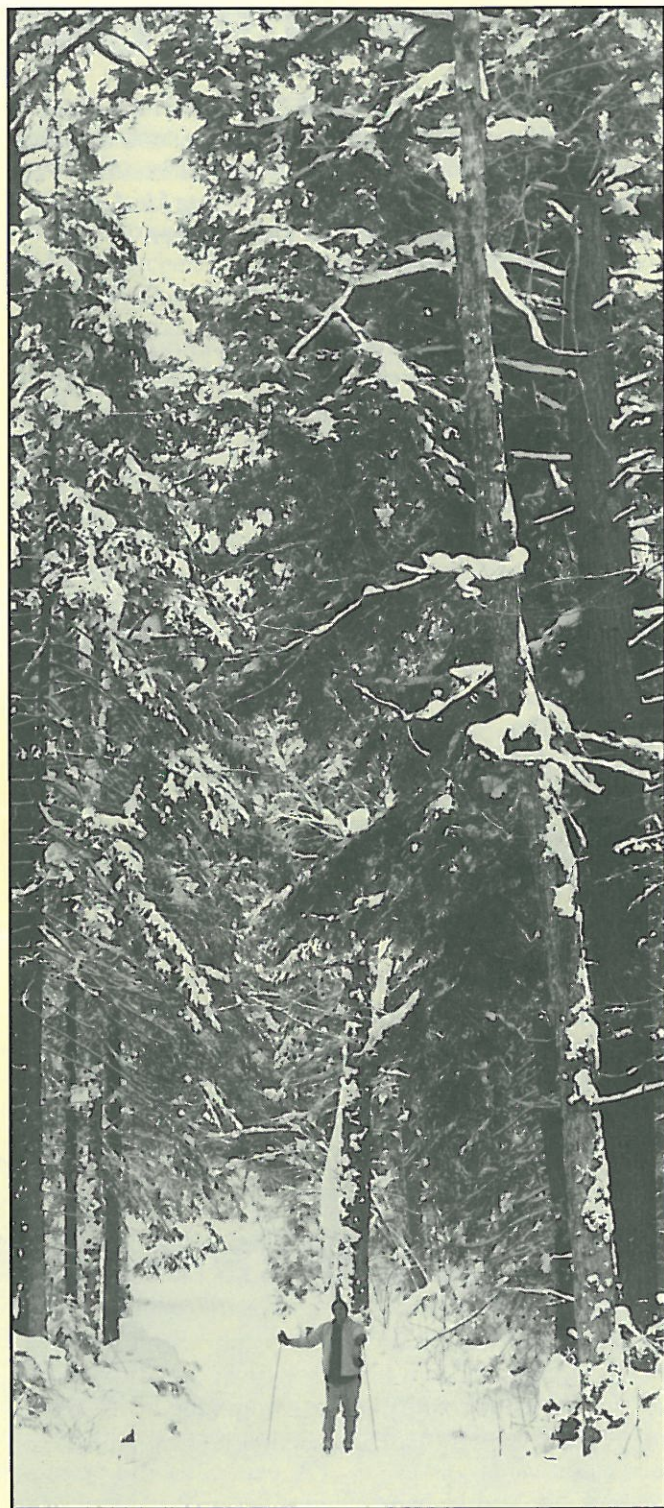
The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has announced the acquisition of 14,913 acres of land from International Paper Company in four Adirondack counties at a cost of \$2,105,400. This marks the first use of 1986 Environmental Bond Act funds for land purchases in the Adirondack Park.

The Adirondack Council hailed Commissioner Jorling for "breaking the acquisition logjam in the Adirondack Park and moving full speed ahead to acquire key private tracts before the subdividers and land developers do."

The Council also praised Governor Cuomo for requesting 13 additional staff members for DEC's acquisition team.

The State purchased 9,802 forested acres in the town of Lake Pleasant and Arietta, including Little Moose Lake, Cellar Pond, Wakely Pond, and lands adjoining the Cedar River. These tracts border state lands and will improve public access to the Moose River Recreation Area, the Northville-Lake Placid hiking trail, and the Wakely Mountain firetower.

Two other acquisitions totaling 3,433 acres in the town of Black Brook adjoin state land, one providing trail access to Silver Lake Mountain, the other improving access to



Michael Storey

the Wilmington Mountain Range.

In addition, the State purchased 1,100 acres on Raquette Pond and Tupper Lake, including critical wetland habitat.

Please write Commissioner Jorling and urge him to keep up the good work. The State's voters have allocated \$250 million for land acquisitions statewide, and the Council hopes to see at least \$100 million of this spent on Adirondack acquisitions in the next five years. Write Commissioner Thomas C. Jorling, NYSDEC, 50 Wolf Rd., Albany, NY 12233.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1987

The New York Times

Today, the Adirondacks; Tomorrow, a Subdivision

By Charles M. Clusen

THE ELIZABETHTOWN, N.Y. he century-long fight to save the Adirondack Park has entered a final and critical stage. What is preserved or lost during the next few years will determine the shape of the park for all time. This is not the moment to falter, but that is exactly what New York State appears to be doing.

A private real estate developer has contracted to purchase a key tract of wild forested land in the park that should have been preserved through public acquisition.

The state missed an opportunity to purchase a conservation easement, which would require the owner to relinquish development rights, on a block of 9,000 undeveloped acres adjacent to the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

The owner, Otterbrook Timber Company, had waited three years for the state to buy the easement on this tract. But when state officials finally completed an appraisal, the price they arrived at failed to reflect the rising land values during the last year.

As a consequence, the owner has decided to sell 1,000 acres to the Patten Corporation, an aggressive land subdivider that has already carved up much of the Catskill Park and rural New England.

Last year, New York State missed another important acquisition opportunity when it failed to bid on a 1,300-acre parcel on Tupper Lake, near Lake Placid, which includes three miles of virtually untouched shoreline bordered by a publicly owned forest preserve. This tract has since been purchased and subdivided by Adirondack Mountain Properties Ltd.

More recently, the state appears to have backed away from another exceptional acquisition: the purchase from the Yorkshire Timber Company of a conservation easement on 72,000 acres in St. Lawrence County, including the headwaters of the Grasse River.

The Adirondack Park is a vast natural sanctuary, equal in size to Vermont and the largest park by far in the contiguous United States, harboring a blend of wildlife, forests, mountains, lakes, streams and wetlands found nowhere else in the United States.

About 40 percent of the park is a publicly owned forest preserve area, kept "forever wild" by the state constitution. The remaining 60 percent is private land, mixed with public holdings in a crazy-quilt ownership pattern that makes the park especially vulnerable to excessive development.

The large private holdings, which account for much of the region's open-space character, are now beginning to be broken up into smaller lots as subdividers and land developers move in.

Why are the private development interests beating out public interest for these critical areas of the Adirondacks? Money is not really the problem. In 1986, voters passed a bond act allocating \$250 million for land acquisitions statewide. Yet not one dollar of this fund has been spent for purchases of Adirondack land.

Three bureaucratic deficiencies stand out:

1. An appraisal process that lags six months behind escalating land values, and an understaffed acquisition program that requires an average of 15 to 18 months to complete a transaction.

2. An aversion by state officials to acquiring Adirondack easements because of an unreasonable fear that such easements could be declared legally void at some point in the future.

3. A longstanding prejudice at the Department of Environmental Conservation, the land acquisition agency for the Adirondack Park, against the purchase of any easement that does not automatically provide public access to the land. Sometimes an easement should, indeed, provide public access, especially where fishing, hiking, canoeing or other recreational possibilities abound.

In many cases, however, the main purpose of an easement is to protect natural beauty as seen from nearby roads, trails, rivers or mountaintops. In any case, once wild lands are saved from development, the option for future public access or public ownership is retained.

We have only a few years left to round out the fragmented forest preserve and permanently safeguard the park's lake shores, roadsides and river corridors. What the public saves today is saved forever; what we lose now is lost for good. Nothing less than the future of the Adirondack Park is at stake. □

Charles M. Clusen is executive director of the Adirondack Council, a conservation organization.



Gary Randorf

"Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed . . . if we pollute the last clean air and dirty the last clean streams and push our paved roads through the last of the silence."

Wallace Stegner

GOVERNOR APPROVES NEW WILDERNESS AREA

Though the Council is suing the State for allowing floatplanes on Whitney Lake in an area classified as Wilderness (see p. 1), it has applauded Governor Cuomo for other revisions he recently approved for the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

No longer open to cars, trucks, jeeps, snowmobiles and other motorized uses are a total of nine miles of roads, including the South Meadow Road into the High Peaks Wilderness, Old Farm Clearing Road into the Siamese Ponds Wilderness, and Crane Pond Road into the Pharoah Lake Wilderness. These were the last roads providing motorized access into Wilderness areas of the Adirondack Park.

Protesting the closures, the Adirondack Conservation Council, a local sportsmen's organization, charged that this is "just one small step along the way to total control of all Forest Preserve lands by the WILDERNESS ELITE."

The Governor also approved classification of the 7,100-acre Jay Range Wilderness, making this the 16th tract of Adirondack Forest Preserve to receive Wilderness designation (see map on opposite page).

The Council's goal has been to achieve a roughly equal balance of Wilderness (no motors allowed) and Wild Forest (some motorized access permitted). Today there are 1.2 million acres of public Wild Forest and one million acres of public Wilderness in the Adirondack Park.

ADIRONDACK WILDERNESS IN PERSPECTIVE

How wild should "forever wild" be?

The state-owned lands of the Adirondack Park have been designated Forest Preserve for over a hundred years. Throughout much of the 20th century, however, more and more truck roads and state facilities have been constructed in the Forest Preserve, adding to public convenience but often detracting from a sense of remoteness. Compounding the problem were the growing numbers of floatplanes, jeeps, motorboats, snowmobiles and other motorized vehicles using these publicly owned "forever wild" lands.

Something had to be done to save at least a portion of the Preserve from the invasion of modern technology. In 1970, the Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks proposed that 15 tracts of at least 10,000 acres in size be designated as Wilderness. Here man's imprint would be minimal, and natural tranquility would prevail.

"These tracts are unique not only in New York State but in the entire eastern United States," the Commission reported, recommending that they "should not be used for purposes, or in ways, for which other lands would suffice. No motor vehicles, mechanized transport or motorized equipment will be allowed except in cases of extreme emergency, threats to human life or to intrinsic resource values. No structures except scattered lean-tos, foot bridges and fish barrier dams are allowable in wilderness. Foot and horse trails are acceptable, but large trailless areas will also be maintained."

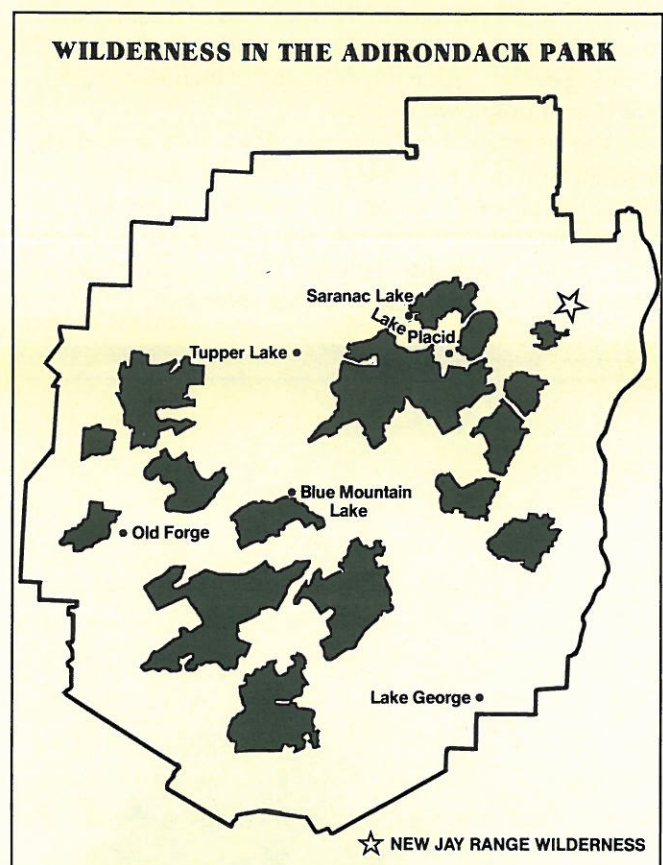
The recommendations were carried out, and today 45% of the Forest Preserve is classified as Wilderness. For these areas, the State called for removal of horse barns, caretaker cabins, docks, clusters of lean-tos, telephone lines, and obsolete fire towers. All roads were to be closed, making these areas inaccessible to the motoring public but more appealing to the growing number of recreationists seeking a peaceful natural setting.

The removal of each "non-conforming" structure and the close of each Wilderness road has brought a wail of protest from some local residents, particularly hunters who resent being denied motorized access to favored spots.

"This is where it helps to put things in perspective," said

George D. Davis, the Council's planning director and former staff ecologist for the Temporary Study Commission, which recommended the Wilderness classification in the first place.

"In the Adirondack Park less than half of the public land, and only about one-sixth of the entire Park, is classified Wilderness. In the Lower 48 States, which was all wilderness until a few hundred years ago, only 1.7% of the entire landscape carries this designation. In the Northeast, the million acres of Adirondack land classified Wilderness is just about the only place left today where you know you can get away from the sound, speed and smell of the internal combustion engine."



"Wilderness is an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain," says the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. Wilderness is further defined as offering "outstanding opportunities for solitude." In Wilderness areas, all motorized recreation, from floatplanes to dirt bikes, from jet skis to snowmobiles, are "non-conforming uses" which are prohibited.

WHAT A RESPONSE!

Thanks for your outpouring of letters in response to our recent Action Alert about the need for state acquisition of an easement to preserve 72,000 acres of timberland in the northwestern Adirondack Park. Though the Department of Environmental Conservation has not yet purchased the easement, we believe that action will soon be taken.

Certainly Commissioner Jorling got a strong message from Council members. Judging from the copies that many of you sent to our office, we estimate that the Commissioner received over 500 letters from Council members on this important issue.

ASH DUMP OPPOSED

The Adirondack Council has urged Essex County to reject a waste treatment plan that would "turn the town of Lewis into a toxic ash dump for much of the Adirondack region and beyond." The Council also praised the Essex board of supervisors for "taking a long, hard, skeptical look at the proposal now on the table."

In a letter to the board, executive director Chuck Clusen advised the supervisors *not* to join with Washington and Warren counties in sending Essex County's solid wastes to an incinerator at Hudson Falls "only to have all of the resulting ash — some of it poisonous — trucked back and dumped in a sensitive site at Lewis."

"A commitment by Essex County to this ash-dumping deal would be a serious mistake," Clusen stated, "because of the rapidly changing public attitude about waste treatment, rapid changes in the methods of treating solid waste (including source reduction and recycling), and increasing evidence that the dumping of incinerator ash is fraught with unknown hazards."

"As the lesser and better known of two evils, a properly managed landfill is preferable at the Lewis site to accommodate the county's refuse. This traditional approach is far from ideal, but it will permit real progress to be made in the coming years by reducing the amount of waste created and recycling much of what remains."

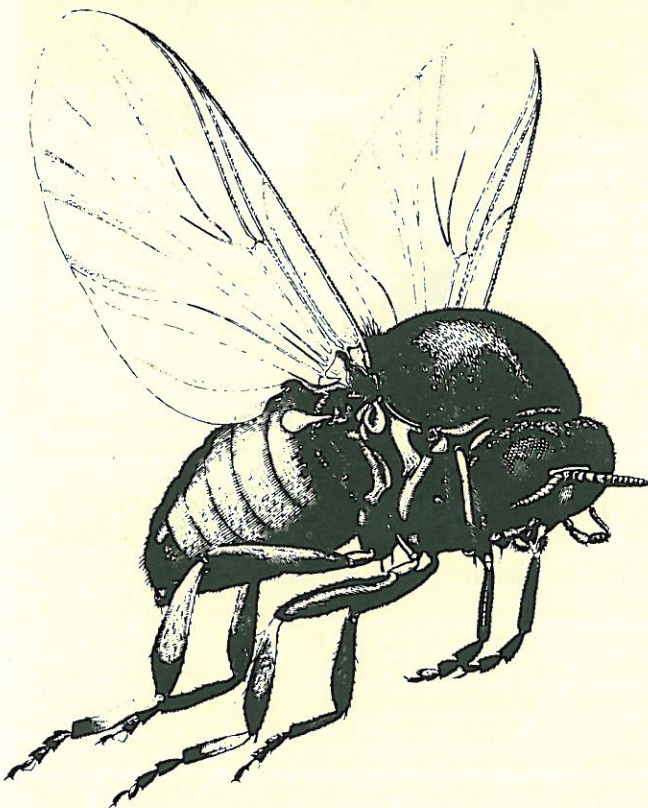


Illustration by R. Rothman

THE BLOODTHIRSTY BLACKFLY

BTI vs. DIBROM

In the war waged by various Adirondack communities against blackflies, a biological control known as Bti has proved an effective weapon. Best of all, this bacterial larvicide, which is deposited manually in streams, apparently causes no damage to other living things.

At latest count, nine towns have switched to the selective use of Bti from the indiscriminate aerial spraying of Dibrom-14. A chemical pesticide of dubious repute, Dibrom is less effective than Bti against blackflies, yet it kills other insects and is possibly harmful to human beings (see Wayne Failing's complaint on opposite page).

It was during the Adirondack Council's lawsuit to halt the use of Dibrom-14 in the early 1980s that Bti was introduced to the Adirondacks as an alternative to chemical spraying. As most environmentalists know, however, any attempt to tamper with nature may result in unexpected and undesirable side effects. Some troubling questions remain. Should we be zapping blackflies at all? What is the role of these bloodthirsty little creatures in the ecological scheme of things? Are they essential food for trout and other fish?

Research on this very subject has been carried on for the past three years by the Biological Survey of the New York State Museum — the same outfit whose 1983 study showed that Bti could successfully control blackflies in the Adirondacks. Their new findings will be released later this year.

DIBROM DEBATED

The town of North Elba (including Lake Placid) recently held a hearing to gauge public reaction to the annual aerial spraying of Dibrom-14 to combat blackflies. The meeting was timely, as North Elba is considering an alternative to the use of chemical pesticides.

In recent years, the nearby towns of Keene, Franklin and Altamont have switched to Bti, a carefully targeted biological control which is proving more effective against blackflies than Dibrom-14 while posing none of the threats to non-targeted creatures that chemical spraying does.

The hearing was heated, with the chemical applicator extolling the virtues of his product while others cited the dangers of chemical spraying to them and their surroundings. (See opposite page.)

Adirondack Council members who own property in the Lake Placid area, as well as those who simply visit there, can make their feelings known in a letter or phone call to Supervisor Matt Clark, Town of North Elba, Lake Placid, NY 12946, tel. 518-523-2141.



AN ANGRY ANSWER TO A NAGGING QUESTION

TO SPRAY OR NOT TO SPRAY?

From a statement by Wayne Failing, a professional Adirondack guide, to the North Elba Town Board.

As a guide I'm in the woods a lot and pay attention to the daily and long-term rhythms of the environment. For years I have watched with frustration as various financial interests across the country and the State of New York have subjected the rest of us to sulphuric and nitric acid and insecticides in the air and PCB, Dioxin, DDT and I'm sure many other toxic pollutants in our water supply.

I have seen the destruction firsthand: many lakes that were full of fish when I was younger are now sterile . . . red spruce that once grew above 3,000 feet are all dead.

New York State itself, on the front page of the Fishing Regulations Guide, recommends that we eat no more than a half pound of fish per week from any state waters. On a two-page list of lakes and rivers they recommend that we eat no fish at all. A sad state of affairs, which gets me angry.

Government Condonos Pollution

Most of these toxins and pollutants were at one time, or are now, either approved or allowed by national and state governments. The preservation of jobs in the industrial community has been the biggest reason. The results to the human population with increased cancers and perhaps long-term damage to the unborn has been well covered by the news media.

The federal government refuses to take a stand but chooses to wait and see how great the damage will be. Our state government has taken a stand against air and water contamination, but seems slow or powerless to stop it.

Perhaps we must start on a local government level, then, to set our own clean air and water standards.

The commercial and industrial applicators and sellers of these chemical products and toxins like to refer to those that speak out against them as "anti's" or irrational radicals. Those who I saw speak out were responsible citizens speaking out about their genuine concern for their health, welfare and quality of life.

Pesticide Sprayed On People

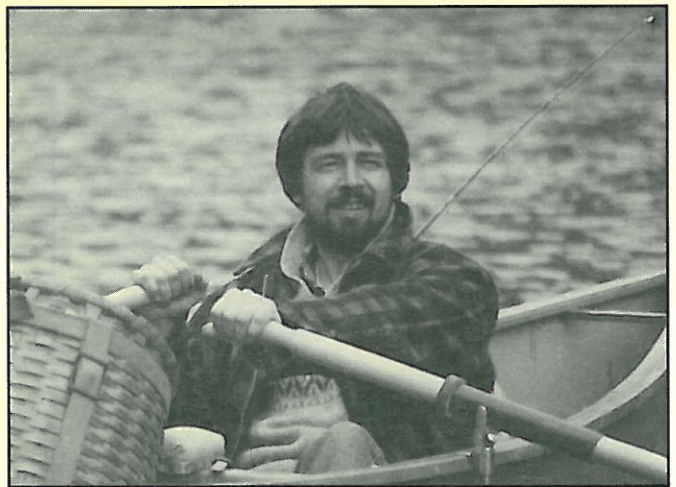
On a more personal level, Mr. Duflo [the pesticide applicator] himself brought my concerns to the forefront. Last summer as I stood on my deck thinking about the day's work ahead, I looked up to see this twin engine plane fly 150 feet over me and spray kerosene and Dibrom-14 in my face and over my land. The smell was thick in the air. Both the people here and the animals went about their daily activities forced to breathe this stuff.

I and two others working here got headaches, sick to our stomachs, and diarrhea the next day. So, when I heard this guy was coming back to a town hearing to tell me what a great service he was providing me, I welcomed the

opportunity to tell him personally how I felt.

I sat and listened patiently to what Mr. Duflo had to say about his service. He certainly painted a picture of blackflies and mosquitoes as vicious bloodthirsty insects that were going to eat us alive if he wasn't allowed to save us. Blaming the death of a nine-year-old boy in Syracuse, by a random mosquito, on an environmentally responsible organization [the Adirondack Council] that opposes his spraying in the Adirondacks was dramatic indeed. But it was random, irrelevant argument. [It was also a ridiculous one!]

The 200 general insect bites he quoted as being treated by the hospital in a year could have all been from bees, wasps, spiders or 100 other possible insects, with few if any blackflies. However, Mark Ippolito's previous testimony [Ippolito is a physicians' assistant at Lake Placid Hospital] that a rash of treatments for respiratory problems, right after Mr. Duflo sprayed, is harder evidence that there is more danger to the community from the spraying than from blackflies.



WAYNE FAILING

Even though this insecticide is approved, Mr. Duflo stated that the Department of Environmental Conservation itself refuses to have it sprayed over state lands. What do they know that we don't? Or are they just licking their wounds from the last time the State allowed tampering with the ecosystem? Should standards for towns and for private property be any less?

I am a reasonable person and do recognize the many ways that the responsible use of chemicals have been of benefit to mankind. But I am basically against putting anything in the water I drink, air I breathe and food I eat that Mother Nature did not put there in the first place.

I respectfully request that my tax dollar not be used for the aerial spraying program.



Gary Randorf



The Adirondack Council

Box D-2, Elizabethtown, NY 12932
(518) 873-2240



A coalition of the National Audubon Society; The Wilderness Society; Natural Resources Defense Council; Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks; National Parks and Conservation Association; and other concerned organizations and individuals.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Charles M. Clusen

PLANNING: George D. Davis
DEVELOPMENT: Lynne Poteau

COMMUNICATIONS: Richard Beamish
ADMINISTRATOR: Donna Beal

OFFICERS:
Chairman Kim Elliman *Vice Chairman* Frances Beinecke
Vice Chairman Arthur M. Crocker *Secretary* Dean Cook
Treasurer Timothy L. Barnett

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Timothy L. Barnett	Kim Elliman	Clarence A. Petty
Frances Beinecke	John Ernst	Katharine M. Preston
Peter A.A. Berle	Barbara Glaser	Paul Schaefer
Richard Booth	William T. Hord	David Sive
Dean Cook	Harold A. Jerry, Jr.	Constance A. Tate
Arthur M. Crocker	George R. Lamb	Thomas D. Thacher II
James C. Dawson	Richard W. Lawrence, Jr.	Francis B. Trudeau
Lynne T. Edgerton	Frederick O'Neal	Norman VanValkenburgh

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
The Adirondack
Council