

# Ti gains first woman mayor in surprise victory

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TICONDEROGA — There were shouts of joy and surprise among local Democrats who managed to capture the village of Ticonderoga mayoral seat for the first time in decades Tuesday.

The surprise, lopsided victory for village mayor-elect Virginia "Babe" Smith, capped a well fought campaign by both Republicans and Democrats which was devoid of any mud slinging.

Smith is the first woman mayor in the history of the village of Ticonderoga and her 648-451 victory over challenger Fayette O. Spring was enough to blunt the Democrats failure to capture either trustee position.

A proposition to allow active volunteer firemen of the village of Ticonderoga a \$500 exemption on their real property tax assessment passed handily.

Smith was, needless to say, elated over the results while challenger Spring was dejected and somewhat bitter. The results surprised Spring and other Republicans who were confident of sweeping all three positions on the board.

Spring said, "I did the best I could." He said he anticipated a closer vote and the defeated candidate lamented, "It was the water

meter issue that got us."

Obviously upset with the outcome, Spring said, "I've got the better end of the bargain. I won't have to serve on that board."

There is a vacancy created on the board as Smith takes over the mayor's chair in April. Spring had been mentioned as a possible candidate for the position. Spring said he wouldn't accept the spot if it were offered.

In the meantime, Smith reveled in her victory as she led a mob of followers, supporters and assorted hangers-on through the village streets and drinks were on the Democrats at the four downtown bars. The party lasted well into the night.

She said winning the election "was the greatest thing that ever happened to me." Elated, the victor said she was pleased and surprised that the voters placed so much confidence in her.

"I hope I never let them down," she said.

The large victory margin was a surprise to Smith who thought the water meter issue was her ticket to the mayor's chair. She also said Mayor John C. Dreimiller's election eve statement against her contributed to her wide victory margin.

Regarding the soon-to-be-vacant trustee position on the board, Smith hasn't anyone particular in mind but the decision would be up to the

entire board and they would base the choice on the qualifications of a candidate.

To the other winners, the taste of victory was sweet. To the two Democratic candidates who lost, they seemed just happy to have been there and took the loss philosophically.

Colle Strange said, although he was somewhat disappointed with the outcome, it wasn't a wasted effort.

"I'm glad to have gotten my feet wet politically," the first-time candidate said. "They haven't seen the last of me." Strange chuckled. He polled the fewest votes of any candidate, 405.

Never at a loss for words, defeated trustee candidate Louis Morett praised the Democrats for the good showing.

Pointing out that the Republicans enjoy an almost three to one margin among registered voters in the village, Morett said, "They (the voters) had to cross over to vote for Babe. I think they made a good choice. We had four good candidates for trustee."

About his own showing, Morett was slightly disappointed. He figured he had an even chance to win a board position. Morett said he'll continue to be in there pitching.

"I'm not going to sit back on my haunches. I live in this town and I want to see some changes take



place." On the winner's side, Carlton Stacy, now a trustee-elect, said he won by campaigning hard. He's satisfied with the victory and said, "I hope everything works out well for the village."

Stacy also pointed to the water meter issue as the main problem Republicans had to try and overcome in this election. "Babe came out first with the water issue," Stacy concluded.

Trustee-elect Donald Cook said the results were "satisfying." Cook said he was naturally pleased with winning and was looking forward to serving the village and a long future in local politics.

Cook and Stacy tallied 636 and 655 votes respectively, while Morett finished with 439 votes.

## Press-Republican

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### Program for elderly underway

SCHROON LAKE — An eight week program of the Senior Center Humanities Program, concentrating on "The Remembered Past: 1914-1945," recently began at the Schroon Lake Senior Center.

The program is being sponsored by the North Country Center of Gerontology, North Country Community College at Saranac Lake, as part of the center's emeritus studies program and is being conducted on Thursday afternoons at 2 p.m.

Designed by the National Council on the Aging with funds provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the program is meant to enrich the lives of older Americans through involvement in the humanities.

In addition to "The Remembered Past: 1914-1945," other units focus on local history, images of aging in

literature and the environment.

After a year of field testing in the Cincinnati area, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania, the program is expanding and includes almost 20 centers nationwide.

NCOA hopes to offer program participants unlimited opportunity for self discovery and personal growth, increase rate in reading and library use and stimulate senior involvement in community concerns such as historic preservation, development of oral histories and appreciation of the arts.

For further information regarding the humanities program and its implementation at senior centers, call Deborah McLean, North Country Center of Gerontology at the college. The telephone number is 518-891-0606.

### County Day April 28

WESTPORT — The Essex County Fair Board Association is sponsoring an Essex County Day which will feature an arts and craft sale, flea market, and farm and machinery auction. The event will be on April 28.

Arts and crafts will be on sale from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Essex County Fairgrounds (Agricultural Center).

All interested persons are invited to bring and sell their wares. Articles may range from woodworking, caning, knitting, crocheting, macrame, quilting, needlework, pottery and ceramics, hand-sewn garments and articles.

Space will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. To reserve a table, please contact Sharon Wild,

Cooperative Extension, Agricultural Center, Westport, N.Y. 12993 or phone 962-8241.

### Carl Floyd gains full mayoral term

WESTPORT — Carl Floyd was elected to his first full term as mayor in Westport Tuesday night.

He ran unopposed for the position left vacant by Donald McIntyre, who was appointed Westport Town Supervisor in February.

Floyd received 70 votes.

Samuel Sherman ran unopposed for the trustee position. He received 73 votes. A total of 84 voters cast their ballots in the election.

### Last hurrah?

Ticonderoga Village Mayor John C. Dreimiller (center) presides over his final board meeting before he leaves office on April 1 after eight years of service to the community. But Dreimiller says he's not through with politics and has hinted that he'll try for the town supervisor's post in November. Flanking Dreimiller is Public Works Superintendent Bill Rooker and Village Clerk Marge McCormick. (P-R staff photo by Tom Bergin)



### Keeseville elects Laundree, Harper

KEESEVILLE — In Keeseville Tuesday night, 57 voters turned out to elect two village trustees.

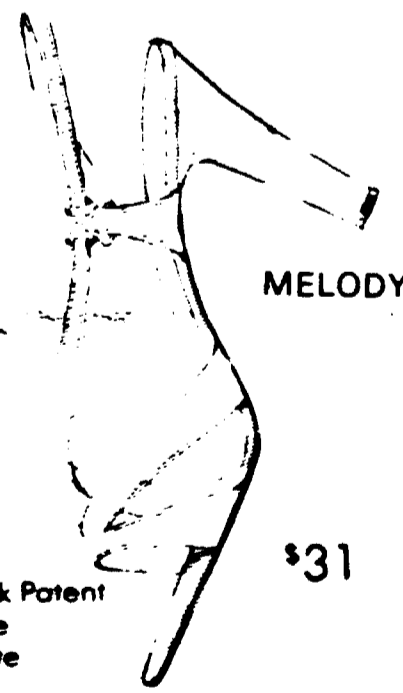
Gerald Laundree ran unopposed for one trustee position and was elected to his second full term with 45 votes.

Raymond Harper was also unopposed for the other trustee position. He was elected to his second term with 49 votes.

Both trustees are members of the Progressive Party.



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## Old Number 9.

First you'd hear the siren piercing through the trees. Then Old Number 9 would heave into sight, wallowing down the street and galumphing toward her destination like a dinosaur with flat feet.

She wasn't your sleek, classic beauty, but the Chief and his boys kept her shined up and as spiffy as possible for an aging lady who had put out a lot of tires in her time.

I loved that fire engine. And my grandfather knew it. When he gave me my first Savings Bond, he smiled and said, "Save enough of these, boy, and someday you can buy your own fire engine."

I couldn't get enough of Old Number 9. Even her siren had a special wail that gave me goose bumps. Kind of lonely and yet reassuring at the same time. Sometimes they'd park her out in front of the station, and I'd walk slowly all around her. She'd sit there, all alone, resplendent in her red coat, her chrome trim

gleaming and winking at me in the sun.

I grew up, moved away, and on to other things. But I never forgot Old Number 9. Guess that's why I joined the local club for fire engine buffs. Turned out there were a lot of us around. Enough of us to be able to pool our Savings Bonds and go looking for a fire engine to buy.

I finally found Old Number 9. Spending her retirement on the edge of a highway under a big "Mack's Red Hot's" sign. But we changed all that. Today, Number 9 has the place of honor in every town parade. She leads the march down Main Street. With me at the wheel, of course.

Bonus: Buy a Parnell Airstep shoe and get a free Parnell Airstep shoe care kit.



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