

BY STEVE MANOR  
Staff Writer

**MOOERS** — The Mooers Village Board has hired an attorney and appointed a citizens committee to investigate the possible dissolution of the municipal corporation.

As a result of the 200-signature petition asking that a proposition be placed on the ballot to determine whether the village should be dissolved, Plattsburgh attorney Patrick McGill has been hired to represent the village.

Early this summer, McGill met with the board on the dissolution question and advised that a study would have to be done as to the effect dissolution would have on the citizens of both the village and town of Mooers.

McGill also recommended that a citizens committee be appointed to

study the impact so "disclosure to the public can be made at the required public hearing pursuant to village law."

Clerk Doris Manor said the village has established a Municipal Dissolution Survey Committee and appointed village residents Steve Drown, Paul Vogan, Loren Schnell and Rene Rabideau as representatives.

These committee members, the village board and McGill are scheduled to meet for the first time next week. Following this meeting, the clerk added, two town representatives, probably town board members, are expected to be added to the committee.

Village law, according to a letter McGill sent to Mooers Town Supervisor Jack Dragoon, requires upon dissolution of a village that the town assume the services previously con-

ducted by the village. Though these particular services can be paid for by special assessment districts, certain services may be beneficial both to the town and the village to continue or to be terminated without special assessment districts.

In addition, several financial questions must be answered as to the impact of state aid, federal revenue sharing, sales tax and other items that will affect both the assessed valuation in the town, as well as within the limits of the village.

"It seems appropriate to me that the town consider the appointment of a committee to join with the village committee to discuss the impact," McGill advised the Mooers town supervisor.

The attorney said he was advised that once the preliminary data has

been collected and a joint committee formed, the Department of State would be there that willing to meet and provide technical and legal assistance to the process.

The village, according to McGill, is gathering information on services currently being performed, the cost of these services, assets and liabilities, revenues and other items incidental to the village government.

"Once that information is amassed, then meaningful discussion can be had between the town and the village to formulate a projection as to what will occur if the village should dissolve," McGill said.

## Village incorporated in 1899

**MOOERS** — The incorporated village of Mooers, which is 84 years old this year, was a thriving community between 1900 and 1925.

The village was incorporated in 1899 and the first meeting of the village board was held on Oct. 18, 1899. Andrew Bedell was the first president (mayor) and the trustees were Wilmer H. Fitch and Russell McDowell. George Fitch was appointed the first village clerk and held the post for 42 years.

The village's population was listed at 588 in 1906, 52 more than the 1970 census figure.

The formation of the village was sparked by the fact that Mooers was the site of a railroad junction involving two major lines: the Delaware and Hudson and the Rutland railroads.

The "rail crossroads" led to a booming, railroad-related economy. The Mooers of 1900-1925 was also the site of an overall factory, a shirt factory, a grist mill, a cheese and milk plant, and coal and wood yard, and two blacksmith shops.

It had a host of retail outlets, including three general stores, a variety store, a meat market, a retail milk delivery service, a drug store, two millinery stores, a hardware store, a shoe repair shop, two grain stores, and a car dealership.

It also had two hotels, a restaurant, two barbershops, an undertaker, four churches, two doctors' offices and a dentist office.

There were also a U.S. Customs office, a telephone office and a post office.

The village's gradual decline came just as its growth, following in the footsteps of the two railroads, which shut down their lines and pulled up their tracks. The village of Mooers is no longer a railroad town and hasn't been for sometime. All that is left are the railroad beds and the old station buildings.



Winners

Chateaugay Central School joined in on the Skate-a-thon to raise money for the Franklin County Unit of the American Cancer Society. St. Joseph Academy in Malone raised the most money. Prize winners from Chateaugay were Dean LaClair, 3rd place; Dawn Wilcox, right, 4th place; and Laurie Clark, left, 10th place. (P-R staff photo by Mary Vondell)

## Forum to be held tonight at NCCS

**CHAMPLAIN** — The Northern Clinton Central School Board of Education and administration will hold a public forum tonight at the Rouses Point Elementary School.

District resident may attend the session, which starts at 7:30 p.m. to express any concerns they may have or ask any questions on the operation of the school district and its programs.

Board members Arlene Penfield, Lee Noyes and Robert Wood will attend, as will Principal John Huchro.

## Maple producers to form association

**ROUSES POINT** — Maple producers, in cooperation with the Miner Administrative Assistant Loretta William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute, are planning an organizational meeting to establish a maple association.

The meeting, according to Miner, will be held at the institute auditorium from 10 a.m. until noon on Monday. All maple producers may attend.



## North Country Byways

By DAVID CLAYTON  
Staff Writer  
Central Essex Bureau

"Ine svi sofa...ooooo...dare's 99 baugh tles o' bere on sha wal 'cause in hev'n dare ain't noo here so's ah got ta drinkin' beer: ine svi sofa..."

Appropriately, as I recall, that melody of drinking songs whirled from my lips Monday night as I whipped up a late-night munch-out after having been brought home by Sheriff Robert LaVigne.

Before getting into LaVigne's car, State Trooper Al Simard warned me that I hadn't "peaked" yet, so while trying to placate my severe case of the munchies, I wasn't surprised to feel welling up within me symptoms commonly associated with a malady known by many names, some of which are: "whacked out," "blitzed," "plastered," "smashed to the gills" and "rip-roaring drunk."

I wouldn't be telling you any of this except for the fact that my night out was motivated by only the purest of journalistic principles. The fact that the Michelob was going to be ice cold, free, and bottomless, had nothing to do with it.

As I labored over the stove Monday night, my thoughts were not in sync with my songs. I was thinking about why I had gotten drunk this particular night, and about how much my own education would be improved after I sobered up.

Kevin Killeen, Essex County's Stop-DWI coordinator, had walked into my office about a month previous. He had this idea that town justices would understand breathalyzer tests much better if they could see a live demonstration — performed on a live, but drunk and getting drunker, model.

"Yes, go on," I said to Killeen. "I thought maybe you might want to be the model," he went on.

That's what led to Sheriff LaVigne picking me up at 6:30 Monday night and taking me to the Hand House in Elizabethtown, where about 25 town

justices and service-agency people, including Killeen, were on hand to witness my performance and hear a state expert from the Bureau of Alcohol and Highway Safety.

Some of the things I learned:

- It's generally OK to drink a six-pack during an evening's outing, then drive home — but only if you've spaced those six beers out so that you've consumed no more than one bottle per hour. Please don't do what I did if you've got a drive ahead of you. I knocked off six brewskies in little more than 90 minutes. Thank you, sheriff, if it were home. If I'd been driving, it would have been the risk of myself and society at large.

- Drunk drivers are involved in half the vehicle-related fatalities in the United States and drunks behind the wheel are 25 times more likely to have accidents. Sobering thought. That statistic alone should end these kinds of post-driving, pre-driving arguments: "It'll never happen to me; I'm a great drunken driver; I'm only having a couple miles."

- Breathalyzer tests are considered to be very accurate. True, lawyers (who don't come cheap) can and do rip them up and sometimes succeed in "winning" their cases. But the breathalyzer tests usually stand up in court, especially if they've been administered by experts like Trooper Simard, who tested me Monday night. Simard is so expert that he often teaches breathalyzer courses at the police academy.

- It's no picnic to be arrested for drunken driving. Automatically, you are fined \$250 or \$350, depending on how drunk you are. Jail is a strong possibility. Your license is suspended. Second offenses can result in felony charges. We're talking handcuffs and iron bars here. It's not like a speeding ticket, which

is bad enough.

- People who register 2.0 or more on the breathalyzer have a definite problem with alcohol. They're not just Monday Night Football armchair jocks who had a couple too many; social drinkers pass out before reaching 2.0. Town judges will often commit these heavy drinkers to state-run alcohol treatment programs, which are a pain in anybody's butt. Problem drinkers (you know who you are) should get together with an outfit like Alcoholics Anonymous, or at least have a non-drinking friend drive on nights out.

- Many drunken drivers are young males, still swayed by the pervasive but jerky notion that "real" men drink hard and drive fast.

- Drinking coffee, doing jumping jacks in the parking lot, spraying crap in your mouth — they ain't gonna do diddly squat, friend. The only way alcohol is removed from the body is through the liver, which will oxidize (remember that word next time you play Scrabble) about one drink an hour.

- If J.R. Ewing really drank that much, he'd wig out.

On my final breathalyzer test, I punched in at .07. That's plenty enough to get busted, but it was still low considering there wasn't time to wait until the full effects of six beers in 90 minutes hit with full force. When it did hit, I'm just glad it was the kitchen table I was behind, and not the wheel.

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