

PLACID PIONEER

BEV'S BITS...*A report from the Town Historian, Beverley P. Reid*

Since the time of the glaciers, the Adirondacks have been faced with the phenomenon of ICE, some good and some bad. The freezing of Lake Champlain encouraged the hardy pioneers of the early 1800s to cross over to explore the lands on the other side. With sleighs pulled by strong horses, they managed to continue onward to follow the Old Military Road into the new developments. Cabins were erected near ponds that had to be chopped open to enable the settlers to reach the much needed water. Ice was cut from larger lakes and stored in "ice houses" for use the next summer.

The year of 1816, however, proved to have too much cold and ice. Crops failed and nothing could survive. Pioneers had to leave our area and not return for a number of years.

By the late 1800s many settlers had returned to Lake Placid and the boom years of hotels began. Ice was used to decorate the Village with various sculptures in front of homes and businesses. Olympic Arena employees erected a lighted ice wall around the front driveway. Each February the high school held a competition in which students designed sculptures and used brawn and shovels to build them.



Ice climber. Are you brave enough?

Sports competitions became the prime pastime with skating, ice sailing, and horse racing on Mirror Lake among the most popular sports. Other ice sports evolved over the years including curling, barrel jumping, bobsledding, lugging, and ice climbing.

Mirror Lake became well-known worldwide due to the International Speed Skating competitions held there. Stands had to be erected on the shore to accommodate all the spectators. Ice trotting horse races and minstrel shows provided exciting winter entertainment. Movie companies came in to film their ice scenes. Colleges held weekend competitions in all sports. If a sport was connected to ice, you could find it in Lake Placid.



Ice delivery

DID YOU KNOW?

Ice, **at a thickness of two inches** can support a man; **at four inches**, an adult on horseback; **at six inches**, a team of horses with moderate loads; **at eight inches**, heavy loads; **at 10 inches**, 1,000 pounds to the square foot!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-Chuck Damp

We asked and again you all delivered; this year the annual appeal has already exceeded last year by close to 20%. Since this is only our second year conducting this type of appeal we were very happy with the results. THANK YOU!!! Memorial bequests in honor of Laura Viscome still continue to be received; it is quite evident that Laura touched many, many lives.

We are still plugging away on the accessioning project and are well past the halfway point. While in the midst of this project, we have concluded that our original goals might have been overly optimistic and have decided that we will need to push the end date out about a year. We have made great strides, but to do it right we need more time. As always, many hands make light work and if you have an inclination to volunteer some time to this worthy project we can certainly use the help!

We are excited about the new exhibit that we are staging this year. If you attended our lecture series this winter, you will remember that one of the topics was about ice. Caperton Tissot regaled a large crowd on the importance of ice in the area. After her presentation we asked Caperton if she would be willing to help us develop an exhibit focused on ice. She graciously accepted our request and has been busily working with Museum committee chair, Parmelee Tolkan, and her committee to remove the current exhibit and develop the new. Please join us on May 28th when we re-open for the season to discover **ICE!** Brrrrr.

Chuck



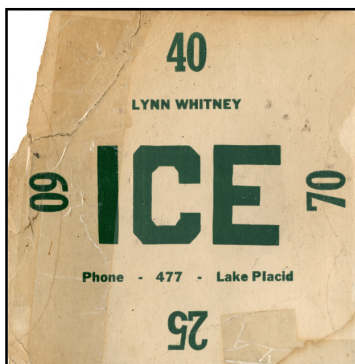
LAKE PLACID – NORTH ELBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ❧ THE HISTORY MUSEUM

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FROM OUR COLLECTION

A DONATION FROM DICK WHITNEY, SR.



Ice delivery sign #11.263

This sign was used by ice customers when delivery was common. Customers would place the sign in their window depending how much ice they needed that day.

This item is part of our new ICE! exhibit—come see for yourself!



ITEM ON EXHIBIT THIS SPRING!

Construction of the bobsled run #08.490

WHO, WHERE, WHEN?



**Do you know anything
about this picture?**
Thehistorymuseum@verizon.net

**Do you know lots about Lake Placid?
Love talking to visitors? Have some
free time on your hands?**

Come be a docent at the museum this season! We could use help on the weekends between the hours of 9-4pm and a backup person for all days Wednesday-Sunday. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Jenn at 523.2529 or thehistorymuseum@verizon.net. THANKS!

SOCIETY SEEKING

OUR WISH LIST

- Volunteers for accessioning
- Flat storage files for maps & documents
- Crafters for Heritage Day

SOCIETY UPDATES

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE 2011 SEASON

**MAY 28 MUSEUM OPENS
FOR THE SEASON—ICE! THE
HISTORIC EXHIBIT OPENS**
9-4PM

**JUNE 10 ICE! EXHIBIT
FUNDRAISER RECEPTION**
\$20/PERSON 5-7PM

**JUNE 25 POINT OF VIEW
GALLERY ART OPENING
RECEPTION 5-7PM**

**JULY 16 HERITAGE DAY
AT THE HISTORY MUSEUM**
10-4PM

***CRAFTERS STILL NEEDED!
PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT
518.523.2529***

PAST EVENTS

Our 2011 'Odds and Ends' winter lecture series brought in a record number of guests thanks to our humorous, insightful, and engaging speakers including Caperton Tissot, Ernie Stretton, John Friedlander, Roger Loud, Andy Flynn and Paul & Rosemary Reiss. Thanks to all of you who attended these presentations and supported the historical society this winter.

**FOR MORE DETAILS ON ANY OF OUR
UPCOMING EVENTS VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.LAKEPLACIDHISTORY.COM**

E XHIBIT OPENINGS!

May 28th, 2011

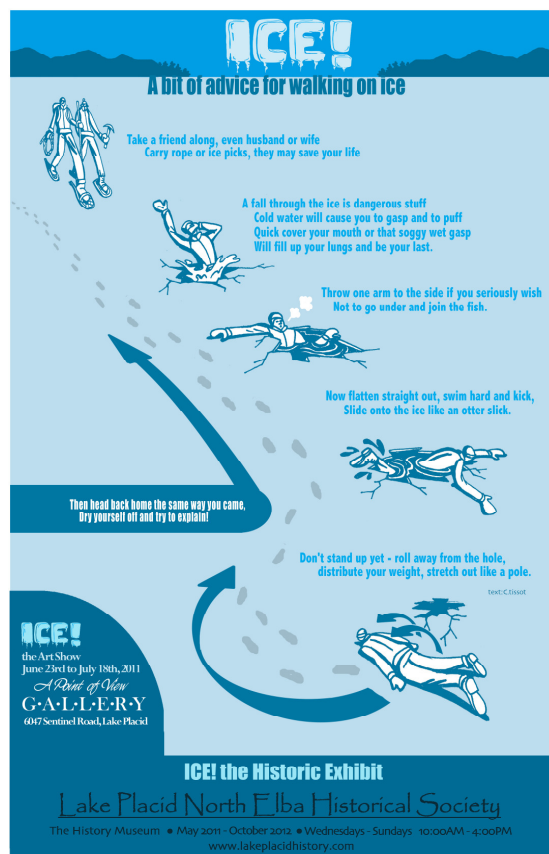
ICE! the Historic Exhibit opens at
the History Museum
10am-4pm

June 10, 2011

ICE! the Historic Exhibit
opening fundraiser reception
5-7 pm

June 24-July 18, 2011

ICE! the Art Show at
Point of View Gallery
5-7pm



**LAKE PLACID—NORTH ELBA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE HISTORY MUSEUM**

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