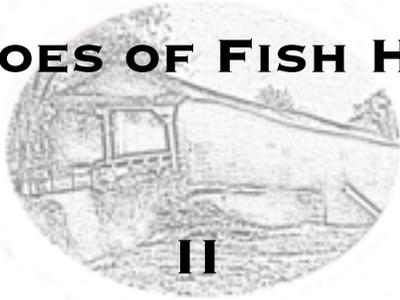


# ECHOES OF FISH HOUSE



II

[www.FHCC.weebly.com](http://www.FHCC.weebly.com)

## Picnic Area

We now have a new area where you can eat your breakfast. Go out through our back door and you will see several picnic tables.



**Dean Berhaupt** and **Delaney Crushed Stone** donated their time and supplies to cover the area with a nice layer of stone. Jesse, from **Beyond Your Garden**, donated the mulch which borders the stone and has been spread under the swings. David Floyd took charge of this area and contacted the contractors. Thank you to all who made this wonderful area possible!

## RUMMAGE SALE OF 2016



Thank you to everyone who donated to our rummage sale. We had lots of clothes, electronics, knick knacks, furniture and old wooden sleds. We even had things that we had no clue what they were!

By Friday, July 8th, at 7:30 AM, there were people lined up along the road, waiting for the sale to begin. When the "gate" was open, people headed quickly to gather up "treasures". Business was steady until the skies darkened and we closed up the Center. On Saturday, the rummage sale started at 9 AM and shortly after that the BAG SALE was begun. This has become a wonderful tradition. You are given a plastic shopping bag to fill. A bag filled with "treasures" only costs \$2. It is amazing how much you can fit into one shopping bag. Even little kids get into the challenge!

The Community Center closed its doors at 2PM, but anything left outside was free. So all week long, people have been stopping by, looking for more "treasures". The leftovers will remain outside, under the white tents for about one more week. Who knows, maybe you will find something you can't live without!

Thank you to our community for all the support that you give us during this rummage sale. People have planned their vacations to the lake based on when the rummage sale will be. This is not just a sale, but a community event where neighbors can have fun and see other neighbors after a long winter.

A special thanks has to be given to Jim Groff, Town Supervisor of Northampton, for giving us road signs to make our road safer during the sale days.

# JULY 2016

**NEXT BREAKFASTS**  
**August 14th & September 4th**

## FHCC Mission Statement

*To provide community events to maintain the historical two room school house and to support our Fish House neighbors, while building unity through volunteering.*

## Fish House Community Center

The building that houses the Fish House Community Center was originally a two room school house built in 1909. The United Methodist Church has partnered with us to keep this building in good condition. Years ago, we needed a new roof; the church helped pay for that. One year we had over 80 bats in our cupola ( bats in a belfry?) and together we had them removed. Many other projects have been done: painting the interior and exterior, putting in a second exit, upgrading our kitchen to meet health codes. It is an ongoing project, keeping this old building running.

In addition to maintaining the old school house, the FHCC contributes to the community by donating to the local food pantry, sending out cards to grieving and sick Fish House residents and donating money to many community needs. All of us feel fortunate to live in such a wonderful community.

## Fish House T Shirts & Sweatshirts for Sale!



We have a new order of sweatshirts and T Shirts for this summer. We have already sold many during the rummage sale. Don't wait too long to buy one. Or you can take your chances and try to win a T Shirt at every breakfast raffle. You can also order a certain size.

## Bottle Drive 2016



The bottle drive has been very successful so far. Thank you for bringing recyclable bottles and cans to the fenced area behind the Center.

## Little Free Library



The Little Free Library is jam packed with books! People are donating some wonderful books. Time to sit on your dock with a good book!

## Sir William Johnson

- \*1715 - Born in Meath, Ireland
- \*1738- Came to America
- \*1746- appointed NY agent to the Iroquois
- \*1748 -built Fort Johnson
- \*1755- renamed Lake George, originally called Lac du Saint Sacrement
- \*1762 - built Fish House lodge, thus founding Fish House
- \*1772- built Cumberland Castle, a cottage on Summer House Point
- \*1774 - Sir William Johnson died from a stroke, at Johnson Hall in Johnstown
- \*1776 - Summer House Point cottage was used as a military outpost
- \* 1781 - Fish House Lodge and Cumberland Castle burned down



## Summer House Point -

Before there was the Great Sacandaga Lake, there was a large valley. Much of it was marshland from the southern area near Broadalbin and Mayfield up to the Fish House area, covering about 13,000 acres. In this marshland, west of Benedict Loop, was a knoll, about 10 feet higher in elevation, which was about 600 feet long and 150 feet wide. The only way to get to it was by boat through the marsh. Indians hunted and fished in this area.

During the French and Indian War of the 1750's, Indian guides led Sir William Johnson through the Vlaie to get to Lake George. They showed him this raised piece of land and he came to love the spot so much that in 1771 he built a cottage that he named Cumberland Castle. He spent many seasons there fishing and hunting. The knoll became known as Summer House Point. He often traveled between Fish House and Summer House Point, a 4 mile trip by boat.

During the Revolutionary War, it was used as a military outpost. Later, it was burned down.

In 1876, on June 15th, a centennial celebration was held on Summer House Point. A large number of people gathered to listen to speeches and to see a reenactment commemorating the last council for Sir William Johnson with the chiefs of the Six Nations.

In 1900, Harvey Benedict built a boarding house on Summer House Point. (See photo below left) Sportsman came from near and far to fish in the Vly/Vlaie. The fish were numerous and large. Note: In 1940 (10 years after the lake was made), Peter Dubuc caught a 46 lb, 2 oz. northern pike, in the area where Summer House Point was. This pike still holds the U.S.Record.

## Where is Summer House Point Today?

New York State made a detailed map (including houses and property lines) of the Sacandaga Valley in 1911, in preparation for making the Great Sacandaga. After looking at a Jimapco map (see map below) and the NY 1911 map, along with reading Trappers of New York and asking many people, I believe Summer House Point is located west of Sand Island on the shoals referred to as Fish House Shoals. These shoals have destroyed many boat propellers when the water is low on the lake.

The northern part of Summer House Point was where two creeks (the Mayfield and Kenyetto Creeks) converged to become the Vlaie Creek. The convergence of the creeks can be seen on the 1911 map, as well as the words, Harvey S. Benedict, indicating he had property there. Benedict built his boarding house on Summer House Point, west of Benedict Loop.

If you were to drive to the end of Vunk Road Ext. and then boat two miles due west, you would arrive at the northern most end of Summer House Point. but it is underwater.



## The Vlaie - quoted from Louis Decker's Fulton County: A Pictorial History

*The late Clarence Gorthey recalled that the Vly "resembled nothing so much as the Florida everglades on a smaller scale. Wild rice grew in the shallows. Pond lilies abounded as well as a host of other aquatic plants. There were ducks, geese, snipe, blackbirds and hundreds of other species of wild life — including deer and once in a while a bear. Some misguided people called this area worthless."*

Vlaie or Vly - of Dutch origin, meaning swamp or marsh



Summer House Point shortly after its construction north of Broadalbin in 1900. The fishermen are holding long bamboo poles often used in fishing along the Vly streams.

Learn more about the history of Fish House at:  
[www.northamptonnyhistory.com](http://www.northamptonnyhistory.com)

Joanne Blaauboer, Deputy Historian