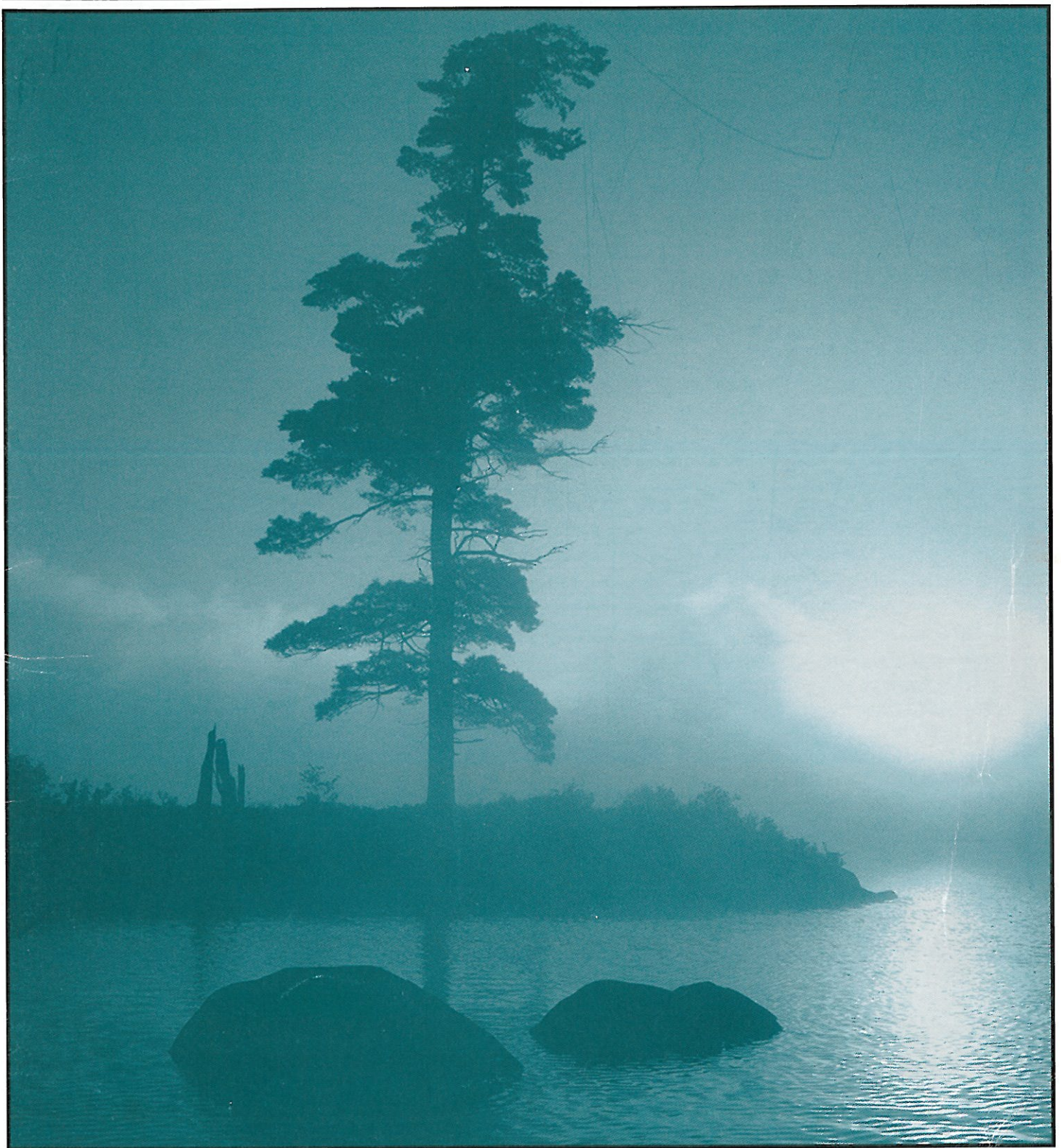


# THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

1975

*Celebrating 20 Years of Park Protection*

1995



*There is just one hope of repulsing the tyrannical ambition ... to conquer every niche on the whole earth. That hope is the organization of spirited people willing to fight for the freedom of the wilderness.*

— Bob Marshall

*"Since 1975, the Adirondack Council has been an ardent advocate for environmental protection in the Adirondack Park. It has worked tirelessly to defend Article 14 of the New York State Constitution, thus ensuring a legacy of wild lands for generations to come.*

*NRDC was a founding member of the Adirondack Council and worked closely with the Council on issues ranging from New York State water conservation to the scourge of acid rain.*

*As a former board member of the Council, I am particularly pleased to see the organization growing in size and influence. As issues facing the Adirondacks have grown more complex, the Council has grown to meet the challenge of park protection. I hope 20 years is just the beginning."*

**— Frances Beinecke**  
**Deputy Director**  
**Natural Resources Defense Council**

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*"For 20 years, the Adirondack Council has pioneered regional conservation strategies. It has worked with local advocates and national groups, always with the goal of preserving the singular natural resources of the Park. The Council, one of the first regional advocacy groups, developed models of biological inventory for the Park; regional zoning; permanent funding for conservation land, and importantly, has worked effectively with local groups and communities in the Adirondacks, as well as national groups focusing on public policy like acid rain, wilderness protection and clean water.*

*For 15 years, I have had the honor of working with the Council, its staff, board and friends, all of them always committed and creative."*

**— Kim Elliman**  
**Chairman of the Board of Governors**  
**The Wilderness Society**

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*"The Adirondack Council has done great work for 20 years, from fighting acid rain to educating people on the beauty and wonders of one of our state's greatest natural wonders, the Adirondack Mountains.*

*I've been privileged to work with the Council on numerous issues, and I always value the Council's input."*

**— U.S. Rep. Sherwood Boehlert**

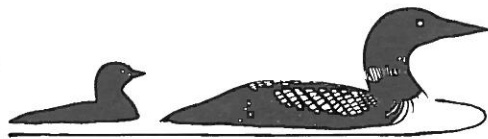
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*"Just as New York was in the forefront among states to control its own sources of acid rain, the Empire State now takes the lead in urging federal standards to limit sulfur and nitrogen emissions from distant points that continue to rain down upon our land, forests and lakes. DEC, along with the private Adirondack Council and other concerned groups and agencies, now call upon the Federal Environmental Protection Agency to modify the nation's acid rain control program to provide heightened protection for the Adirondacks."*

**— The Conservationist**  
**Michael D. Zagata**  
**Commissioner, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation**

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All photographs by Gary Randorf unless otherwise noted.  
Written and designed by John F. Sheehan  
Research by Colleen Chadwick  
**The Adirondack Council**  
**1995**



1975 to 1995  
*Celebrating 20 years of  
advocacy and education on  
behalf of the Adirondacks*

## *The Adirondack Council*

Dear Members and Friends:

The Adirondack Council was founded in 1975 when a group of concerned individuals and organizations saw the need for an advocacy organization dedicated solely to protecting the Adirondack Park from the ravages of uncontrolled development.

It was a momentous time for the Adirondacks. The fledgling Adirondack Park Agency was just four years old and under fire from local developers opposed to any form of land-use control. It was about to face the first major challenge to its existence.

The Wambat Realty Co. was intent upon subdividing more than 22,000 acres of land into 801 housing units on the shores of Silver Lake in Clinton County. When the APA wisely rejected Wambat's permit application, Wambat sued. Wambat not only asked the court to overrule the APA, but also to alter or eliminate the Park Agency's Private Land-Use and Development Plan. Additionally, Wambat sought to declare the APA Act unconstitutional.

So it was on January 13, 1975, that the following groups gathered to discuss a new venture called the Adirondack Council: Natural Resources Defense Council, Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, Sierra Club (Atlantic Chapter), Adirondack Mountain Club, Adirondack Mountain Club Foundation, Adirondack Conservancy, Adirondack Foundation and Hawkeye Property Owners Association. Chairman pro tem William T. Hord convened the meeting.

Today, the Council's member organizations include Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Audubon Society, National Parks and Conservation Association and The Wilderness Society with combined memberships of more than one million people.

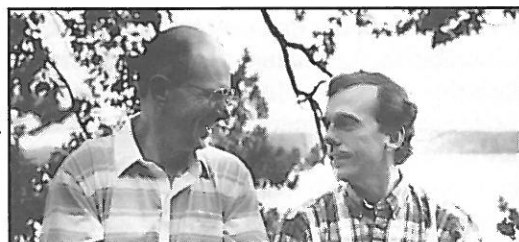
At the same time, the Council's individual membership grew slowly at first, and then by leaps and bounds. In 1980, the Council had fewer than 3,000 members. By 1990, that number had grown to more than 15,000. From 1990 through 1993, when other environmental organizations lost large numbers of members, the Council's membership remained stable. Today, it is growing again, as is the Council's support from corporate and foundation donors.

As you will see from the ensuing pages, the one thing that has not changed about the Council since 1975 is its commitment to protecting the beauty and natural character of the Adirondacks for future generations. As the Council enters its third decade of Park protection, we rededicate ourselves to the vision of the Adirondack Park that includes vast stretches of wilderness and pristine waters, careful stewardship of the working landscape and thriving human communities.

Sincerely,

Peter R. Borrelli  
Chairman

Timothy J. Burke  
Executive Director



# Preserving the Park's Public Heritage

Public lands and waters are resources we all enjoy. In this section, you will see that the Adirondack Council plays many important roles in protecting both.

## Defending "Forever Wild"

For two decades, the Adirondack Council has been a staunch defender of the "Forever Wild" clause of the NYS Constitution (Article 14) and has pushed state government to add more land to the Forever Wild Adirondack Forest Preserve. The Forever Wild clause has faced more than 150 challenges to its integrity since 1895. Since its founding, the Council has assumed a prominent role in fighting such challenges, working closely with the Assoc. for the Protection of the Adirondacks. The Council has also reviewed and participated in numerous decisions involving amendments to the Forever Wild Clause. A brief list of Council activities:

**1976 to 1983:** Opposes annual bills to allow cutting of the Forest Preserve disguised as a plan to help whitetail deer thrive. One bill passes the Senate in 1981, but never reaches the Assembly. The rest die in committee.

**1978:** Lobbies to defeat the first in an annual series of bills designed to open the Forest Preserve to dead tree removal.

**1979:** Reviews and approves of Perkins Clearing land swap that saw 7,133 acres of Forest Preserve exchanged for 10,344 acres of International Paper Co. land, which is incorporated into the West Canada Lake Wilderness.

**1983:** Supports an exchange that provides 200 acres of new Forest Preserve around Camp Sagamore in trade for 10 acres of Forest Preserve Sagamore needed for private use.

**1991:** Helps kill a bill to allow cutting on the Forest Preserve as a means to balance the budget.

**1992:** Opposes Constitutional Amendment to allow development and lease of Barge Canal lands inside Park. Sponsor changes legislation to exclude Park in response to Council's concerns that the land is Forest Preserve.

Again helps defeat a bill to allow removal of dead timber from the Forest Preserve. Bill dies in committee.

**1994:** Leads statewide effort to publicize 100th Anniversary of the Forever Wild clause's adoption and educate the public on its importance. Council public service announcements featuring singer Bonnie Raitt are played in every television market in the state and more than 100 radio stations in New York, Vermont and Massachusetts.

## Planning for the Future

One of the main reasons that the Council has been successful in pushing the Legislature to protect land in the Adirondacks is that the Council has done its homework. By supporting state agencies' planning efforts and by producing plans of its own, the Council has illustrated exactly what lands should be protected permanently and which are better suited to timber production or other uses.

Managing each of the 16 Wilderness and 15 Wild Forest

areas of the Park requires the state to adopt Unit Management Plans that take special resources and amenities into consideration. The Council has actively participated in creating, reviewing and amending those plans:

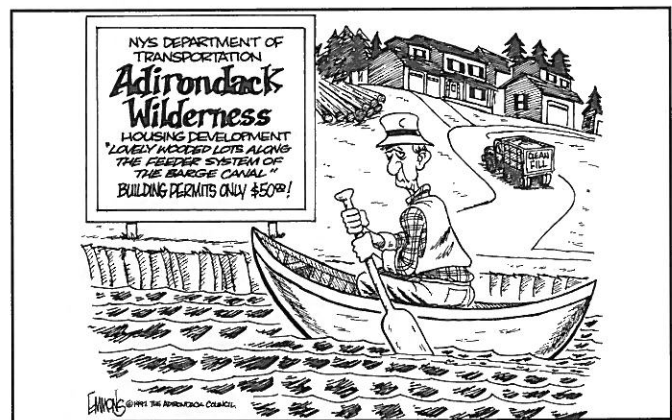
**1978:** Reviews High Peaks Wilderness Unit Management Plan for the first time as part of a Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) citizens advisory committee. Also reviews plans for West Canada Lake, Silver Lake, Pharaoh Lake Wildernesses; Mt. VanHoevenberg and Whiteface Intensive Use areas.

**1982:** Money short, DEC slows UMP process.

**1988:** Publishes first Volume of its highly acclaimed 2020 VISION research series, providing DEC with a blueprint for protecting biological diversity on the Forest Preserve.

**1990:** Releases Volumes II and III, which provide DEC with plans to complete the Park's Wilderness system and maximize the recreational potential of Wild Forest areas.

**1991:** DEC announces it has embraced the Council's



plan to conserve a 408,000-acre great Wilderness in the Oswegatchie River basin of the western Adirondacks, as outlined in 2020 VISION Volume II.

**1992:** Publishes "A Gift of Wildness: The Bob Marshall Great Wilderness" — a full-color publication of the above proposal, showing how the moose, timber wolf and cougar could someday return to their native habitat.

**1994:** Opposes plan to increase parking near popular trailheads in the over-used High Peaks Wilderness as outlined in the latest draft of the long-overdue unit management plan. DEC pulls back its draft plan for revision.

## Purchasing Land

By publishing 2020 VISION, the Council became the only organization or agency (public or private) to create a comprehensive plan for land acquisition in the Adirondack Park. Even before the 2020 VISION volumes were published, the Council's public advocacy efforts focused on convincing lawmakers to protect pristine Adirondack lands by purchasing them for inclusion in the "Forever Wild" Forest Preserve. Over the years, the Council:

**1975 to 1983:** Works with state officials to decide

which lands should be purchased with money from the 1972 Environmental Quality Bond Act.

**1982:** Begins push for new \$200-million bond act for land acquisition and other environmental and historic preservation projects.

**1986:** Legislature approves \$250-million bond act. Voters follow suit in November.

**1987 to 1990:** Works with DEC to identify lands for purchase and conservation easements inside the Park. Urges DEC to buy as much as it can of the 96,000 acres purchased by Henry Lassiter from Diamond International. DEC buys 15,000 acres of land and conservation easements on roughly 40,000 acres. Urges Legislature to propose another bond act.

**1990:** Nearly \$2-billion bond act narrowly fails.

**1991:** Council urges Legislature to create a pay-as-you-go environmental fund.

**1993:** Legislature creates \$90-million-a-year Environmental Protection Fund. Bill signed by Gov. Mario Cuomo in a ceremony at the Heurich Estate, Essex County. Council convinces DEC to make the first two EPF purchases in the Adirondacks — the Heurich Estate on Lake Champlain and the Morgan property on Lake George.

**1995:** Helps convince Gov. George Pataki that his proposed \$18-million cut to the Environmental Protection Fund was too deep. In negotiations with the Legislature, \$10 million is restored, half going to land protection. Helps convince Legislature to buy Canoe Carry East at south end of Whitney Estate — part of the proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness.

Since the Council first began pressing for land purchases in 1975, New Yorkers have acquired 191,929 acres of new Adirondack Forest Preserve, all of which is now protected in perpetuity by the NYS Constitution. The Council has worked with the Adirondack Nature Conservancy and Adirondack Land Trust, which buy land and easements, on many of these projects.

## Canal Lands Saved

While land purchases are the primary means of adding land to the Forest Preserve, the Council expects to see up to 6,000 acres added to the total soon without a cent of taxpayer money being spent to acquire it. However, it took an independent investigation by the Council to ensure that any of the land could be recognized as public.

The land is located in Herkimer County and includes half a dozen lakes: North, South, Woodhull, Sand, Canachagala and part of Hinckley Reservoir. It was originally part of the state Barge Canal system, with most of it being acquired by the Dept. of Transportation (DOT) between 1820 and 1850, as the canal system was under construction. The lakes' outflows were fitted with dams and they were set aside to provide a steady supply of water for the canal. To protect these lands:

**1991:** Council opposes Constitutional Amendment to open all canal lands to development and leasing, arguing that canal lands inside the Park are Forever Wild Forest Preserve.

**1992:** Amendment sponsor agrees to limit the scope of leasing and development to non-Adirondack Park lands. Amendment passes. Council investigation of the land's condition shows DOT has been allowing upland owners to use it like private land and exclude the public. Staff presents its photographs of the lands to joint Legislative Committee holding hearings on future of canal lands.

**1993:** Legislature agrees to order a survey of Adirondack canal lands to determine ownership. Land not needed for canal purposes is to be turned over to DEC as Forest Preserve after survey is completed in 1995.

## Adirondack Railroad

Another public resource in the western Adirondacks that the Council is fighting to preserve is the 122-mile corridor of the Adirondack Railroad, between Remsen (near Utica) and Lake Placid. The Council:

**1981:** Urges DOT to maintain the line despite the bankruptcy of the Adirondack Railway Corp., which operated the entire line from 1976 to 1981. DOT proposes dismantling tracks, while APA asks for delay to find another operator.

**1982 to 1991:** Council completes and presents its own plan for a mixed-use recreational trail with motorized access on 60 percent of line, excluding autos and snowmobiles only where the line touches Wilderness. Corridor lease is subject to protracted litigation.

**1992:** Gains seat on citizens advisory committee on line's future. Supports train use on entire line and recreational use.

**1993:** Working with the Adirondack Landowners Assoc., objects to DOT allowing snowmobilers to use the areas of the line where it touches Wilderness.

**1994:** Objects to continued snowmobile use in second draft of management plan.

## Lake Champlain

On the eastern side of the Adirondacks, the Lake Champlain basin takes in nearly a third of the entire Park. Due to its size and location, there has never been a unified plan to manage and protect the basin's environment. The basin spans not only dozens of small towns and villages in New York, but we also share it with the State of Vermont and Province of Quebec, whose decisions have an impact on the entire watershed as well. Over the past five years, the Council:

**1991:** Gains seat on the Lake Champlain Management Program's Citizens Advisory Committee and helped to explore issues such as industrial pollution, runoff from farms and septic systems, erosion, exotic pests (zebra mussels, Eurasian milfoil, etc.), recreational use, drinking water supplies, sewage systems and a host of other topics that affect the lake basin's health and economic stability. Works with WCFE Public Television to help local students create a newspaper on the basin's health.

**1994:** Makes a series of recommendations to Manage-

**Continued on Page 15**

# Protecting the Park's Private Landscape

The Adirondack Council's founders were acutely aware of the need to protect the Adirondack Park's private lands from haphazard development and immediately went about addressing the issue in the 1975 Wombat case. Over the years, it has argued persuasively for a strong Adirondack Park Agency; sought conservation easements for private landowners who wish to protect natural resources; helped private landowners plan the future of their holdings; lobbied for new tax laws to encourage owners of large tracts to keep them whole; and, put all of this to work in helping to found the Northern Forest Alliance.

## Adirondack Park Agency

As the only environmental organization to constantly monitor and participate in decision-making at the Adirondack Park Agency, the Council has evolved into both the Agency's best friend and most severe critic. Highlighting its consistent involvement with the APA, the Council:

**1975 to 1995:** Opposes projects that needlessly consume natural resources; helps redesign those that are poorly conceived; supports changes that promote sustainable development; works with Legislature to prevent Agency's abolition and to maintain adequate funding.

From the Butler Lake case, where the Council worked from start to finish to help direct development to less-harmful places, to the Gleneagles case, where the Council helped to sort out hundreds of issues crucial to Lake Placid's future, the Council has defended the Park Agency's right to demand accountability from those who would exploit the Park's resources.

**1988:** Successfully sues to stop APA decision to allow float planes on Whitney Lake in the Silver Lake Wilderness.

**1992:** Calls media attention to potential loss of rare pine barren in Clinton County, sold to developers by Henry Lassiter and subdivided after APA fails to recognize its

significance. Council members from Buffalo read about the problem in the local paper and contribute \$50,000, enabling the Nature Conservancy to buy back the core. APA then computerizes 2020 VISION's inventory of biologically rich areas to avoid similar problems in the future.

Wins first round of lawsuit in which Council, APA and others are sued for \$50-million by anti-environmentalists who claimed the groups were conspiring to deprive Adirondackers of their "right" to do whatever they want with their land. Courts reject the suit and all appeals by 1994.

**1993:** Supports task force designed to streamline APA's procedures and make it friendlier to the public. Convinces state to increase APA funding 12 percent as other agencies face cuts.

**1994 to 1995:** Council presents expert witnesses in the Oven Mountain Pond subdivision case; APA sets precedent requiring small clusters for development in "Rural Use" area. Proposal scaled back; watershed protected.

**1995:** Helps persuade Pataki Administration to restore eight of 11 positions cut in budget plan. Encourages administration to move slowly in making new appointments to APA board and staff, urging Pataki to choose qualified and experienced candidates.

In the future, the Council will continue to push for improvements in the APA's 22-year-old zoning regulations. While society has changed a great deal since 1973, the laws APA administers have stagnated. The laws must be updated to better protect shorelines, roadsides and large, undeveloped tracts of forest. The Council will continue to seek enhanced funding for the Agency as well.

## Conservation Easements

Over the years, the Council has successfully advocated for steady improvements in the state's Conservation Easement program. A conservation easement can be described as



*The Bob Emmons political cartoon at left is one of many the Council has commissioned to help illustrate problems with the state's Adirondack policy and the lack of funding for land purchases and conservation easements. A year after this one first appeared, the Legislature created the Environmental Protection Fund.*

*"I hate to think what kind of shape the magnificent Adirondack Park would be in without the work of the Adirondack Council. Even though the (Park) Agency Act ... is quite weak in providing genuine ecological protection for the Park's varied ecosystems, the political presence of the Council held State government to its commitments to the "Forever Wild" clause of the NYS Constitution and the Agency's mandates.*

*Would the DEC and other State agencies have listened to the Park Agency? Would the wetlands and wild rivers acts have passed without the pressure of thousands of Council supporters on the Governor and Legislature? It's hard to say. I believe, however, the Council forced the action. They certainly pushed me toward seeing the seriousness of exploitive threats to the integrity of the Park's rich biological treasures."*

**—Herman J. "Woody" Cole  
APA Chairman, 1984-1992**

a contract between the state and a landowner in which the state purchases development rights on a parcel. The owner receives a payment for the rights, plus a property tax reduction to reflect the lower development potential. The state receives the benefit of knowing the land will never be developed or harmed. Local governments receive payments equal to full taxes. In some cases, the state purchases recreational rights as well.

The program did not always work as well as it does today. The Council:

**1980:** Urges Legislature to create a program without the red tape associated with traditional common law easements.

**1983:** State agrees to cut red tape and pay its fair share of property taxes on easement lands.

**1991:** Works to extend the property tax breaks of the easement program to those landowners who had signed common law easement agreements with the state prior to 1984.

**1992:** Urges state to stop exploiting a loophole that allows it to claim a local property tax abatement of 80 percent on easements over timberlands. Cuomo Administration agrees.

**1993:** Helps secure passage of \$90-million-a-year Environmental Protection Fund that provides steady stream of revenue for easements annually. In total, the Council has helped the people of New York acquire conservation easements on 103,075 acres of Adirondack forest land.

## **Timberland Conservation**

For nearly five years, the Council has been working with two of the largest forest products companies in the Adirondack Park to plan the future of their holdings. In each case, the Council was asked to help identify which lands were best suited for conservation and which lands should remain in the companies' harvesting programs.

In the northeastern corner of the Park, the Council is

working with Canadian-owned Domtar Industries on a plan to place an easement over nearly all of its 105,000 acres in Clinton and Franklin counties.

In the northwest corner of the Park, the Council has been working with Champion International to determine which of its 145,000 acres of forest should be protected for conservation purposes.

## **Property Taxes**

The burden of local property taxes is one of the main financial considerations causing timber companies and other large landowners to seek maximum income from their lands. Because local taxes on undeveloped land can be as much as four times as high as in neighboring states, owners of large parcels are sometimes forced to subdivide, sell or develop their land, just to keep up with the bills.

Since these practices are harmful to the land, the Council is working with landowners to find ways to decrease tax burdens on landowners while protecting the local governments that depend on the tax revenue.

**1992 to 1995:** Council works to improve timberland tax abatement programs, while continuing to require good stewardship from landowners to obtain the abatement. Urges state to reimburse local governments for revenues lost to timberland tax abatements.

## **Northern Forest**

As a founding member of the 22-organization coalition known as the Northern Forest Alliance, the Council is using the lessons learned in protecting the Adirondacks in its role in the protection of the 26-million-acre stretch of forest running from Tug Hill, west of the Adirondacks, through Vermont and New Hampshire to the coast of Maine. Other highlights include:

**1990 to 1991:** Advocates a cooperative effort to protect the region's unique natural resources. Assures that New York is included in federal Northern Forest Study. Gains seat on NYS Forest Legacy Committee.

**1992:** Gains seat on the New York citizens advisory committee for the Northern Forest Lands Council. Begins pushing for funding for Forest Legacy easement program. Integrates Northern Forest with all Council program areas.

**1993:** Begins training activists to support Alliance. Assumes role of New York Media Coordinator for Alliance.

**1994:** Turns out huge numbers of activists at hearings statewide on NFLC recommendations, including programs to encourage sustainable forest products harvests, manufacturing and healthy, rural communities. Supports New York's first Forest Legacy project, in Indian Lake, where Adirondack whitewater rafting companies needed reliable access to local waterways to stay in business.

**1995:** Travels to Washington, D.C. in February and June to lobby Congress for additional funding and support for the proposals of the NFLC.

The Council will continue to train activists on Northern Forest issues and work for economically sustainable and environmentally sound solutions to regionwide problems.

# Safeguarding Public & Private Resources

Three major issues that transcend the public/private divisions in the Adirondack landscape are acid rain, the military's use of Adirondack airspace and the Park's vast river system. Here's an idea of what the Council has done so far:

## Acid Rain

The Adirondack Council has been a strong voice for the Adirondacks in the national debate over acid rain. In no one area has the Council had such a far-ranging impact on the health of the environment. In concert with its member organization, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Adirondack Council has played an important role in improving the air we breathe throughout the Northeast as well as the health of the forests and waters of the Adirondacks.

While there is still much to be done before the Adirondacks can recover, a great deal has been accomplished since the late 1970s when the Council first took action:

**Mid-1970s:** Begins dialogue with Canadian officials and other scientists about acid rain damage.

**1980:** Participates in Clean Air Act workshops in Washington, D.C.

**1984:** NYS Legislature passes the nation's first acid rain law. Council asked to testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Co-sponsors Acid Rain Clearinghouse Conference "Acid Rain: A New York State Agenda." Members mount spring letter writing campaign to support federal legislation and a fall postcard campaign with members of the National Clean Air Coalition.

**1987:** Publishes the ground-breaking booklet "Beside the Stilled Waters," detailing the destruction in full color. In response to a Reagan Administration report downplaying the importance of acid rain, the Council distributes booklet to every member of Congress and every news organization it could find. Also: First public policy conflict with the Long Island Lighting Company when Lilco lobbies to be exempted from New York's acid rain law. Bill dies in committee.

**1989:** Bush Administration proposes a 10-million-ton reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions nationwide — a 40 percent drop. Council continues to lobby Congress to

toughen the Clean Air Act.

**1990:** Congress amends Clean Air Act.

**1991:** Bush signs amended Clean Air Act. Council gains one of three environmental seats (out of 44) on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Acid Rain Advisory Committee. Vice President Dan Quayle's Council on Competitiveness warns EPA not to impose regulations that would be too costly for businesses.

**1992:** EPA releases its new acid rain control program — similar to New York's but lacking components needed to require pollution reductions from specific regions of the country (ie. Ohio Valley). Departing Bush Administration official boasts that the program will "end acidity in Adirondack lakes and streams." Council calls the boast untrue. Starts a series of hard-hitting op/ed pieces for newspapers throughout the Northeast.

**1993:** Files two federal lawsuits challenging new EPA plan's provisions (one in conjunction with NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, one with Natural Resources Defense Council). Files formal comments on the ill-conceived EPA plan. Staff interviewed by Congressional investigators from the General Accounting Office who ask for details on the program's shortcomings.

Second Lilco conflict occurs when Council sends letters to all three utilities participating in the acid rain program asking their intentions. Lilco admits a plan to sell surplus sulfur dioxide pollution to Midwest coal company after Council convinces Public Service Commission to require disclosure. To date, the sale has not been completed.

In consultation with Council, Assembly EnCon Committee Chairman Richard Brodsky, D-Scarsdale, proposes bill to require utilities to disclose where they intend to sell or trade pollution rights and give state officials the right to alter or stop transactions that could hurt the Adirondacks. Bill passes Assembly with more than 110 votes, fails to gain Senate sponsor.

**1994:** EPA agrees to partial settlement of Council/NRDC lawsuit by removing 800,000 tons of sulfur dioxide pollution rights from the market each year for five years (4 million total).

**1995:** Late EPA report to Congress shows Adirondacks would not get a 50 percent reduction in pollution as promised, but merely 39 percent. It would take an 80 percent reduction or more in pollution from Midwest utilities to prevent the deaths of more Adirondack lakes. EPA says it has the authority to demand the reductions, but won't.

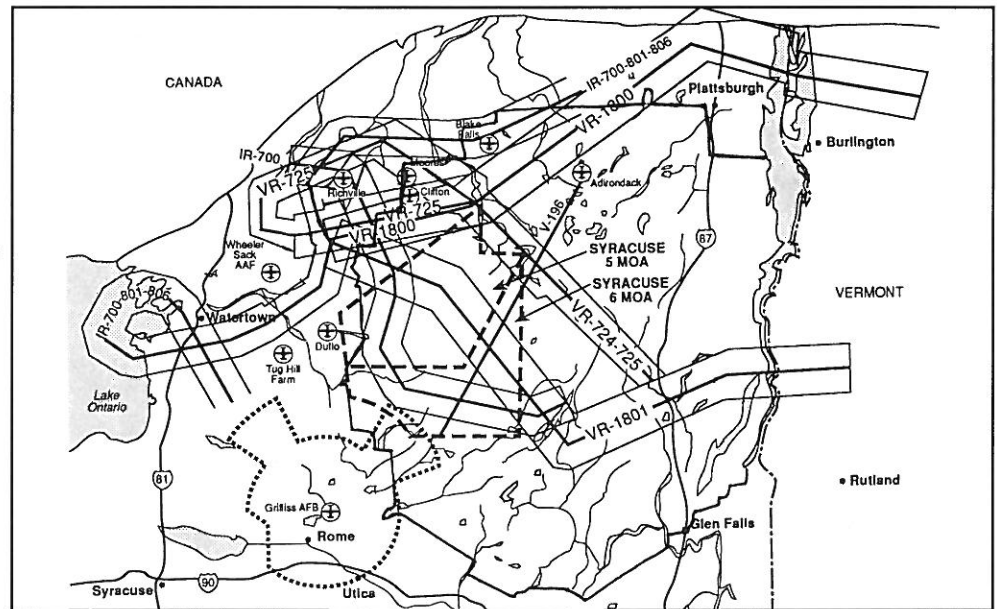
Council convinces new Pataki Administration to issue a joint statement calling for new action from EPA and Congress. NYS Senate and Assembly pass resolutions calling for Congress and EPA to protect Adirondacks. Staff travels to Washington, D.C. in June to lobby Congress on the need to demand better protection for the Adirondacks than the current program allows. Council makes presentation on acid



*Acid rain victims: Dead red spruce in the High Peaks.*



*The map at right illustrates the complexity of the military's patterns of use in the skies above the Adirondack Park. This confusing tangle of flight paths and low-level training areas is still in use.*



rain to the June meeting of the APA.

The final report from EPA to Congress is due at the end of the Council's 20th year. The Council will continue to advocate for the protection our forests and lakes deserve.

### Sharing Space with Military

One of the trickiest missions the Council has had to perform has been negotiation with the U.S. Military over use of the airspace above the Adirondack Park for low-level training flight missions. The Council had to be extremely sensitive to the need for a well-prepared military, while defending the need to protect sensitive wildlife habitat, homes and recreation areas from unnecessary noise and disruption.

**1980:** Council writes to the Air National Guard, requesting that they avoid treetop flights above golden eagle nesting sites. The Air Guard agrees.

**1985:** Large number of military aircraft using the Park launches a public debate over conflicts with hikers and wildlife. Lack of formal scheduling process for military use of Forest Preserve lands causes confusion over which branch of the military was responsible for which missions. Council provides its members with a phone number to report problems associated with low-flying aircraft.

**1987:** Asks military to avoid low-level flights over homes.

**1989:** Calls for an Environmental Impact Statement on all military flights in the Park in an effort to get branches of the military to cooperate.

Gains seat on Governor's Ad Hoc Committee on Overflights, which has become a national model for citizen/military cooperation.

**1991:** Negotiates face-to-face with military leaders in New York working out the details of a complex new plan for reduced flight activity.

**1992:** NY Air National Guard assumes the role of coordinator. Guard agrees to keep all flights 2,000 feet or

higher above all Wilderness Areas and to decrease the total number of flights.

**1993:** Air Guard provides toll-free complaint line for all military missions in the Park.

### The River System

One of the Adirondack Park's most attractive and sensitive resources is its vast network of rivers. To help protect them on public and private lands, the Council:

**1975 to 1976:** Fights to gain protection for hundreds of miles of Adirondack rivers by placing them under the protection of the newly adopted (1973) Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act.

**1976:** Legislature adds more than 1,000 miles of Adirondack waterways to the WSR system.

**1980 to 1989:** Council works to include parts of the Moose River in the system. Legislature agrees.

**1992:** Works with Legislature to craft a bill to open all publicly accessible rivers that are navigable by canoe to the public, while protecting the landowner from liability for subsequent recreational injuries. Assembly passes bill.

**1994:** Helps negotiate a deal with Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. and federal regulators to increase the flow of water through NiMo's power dams to re-create a long-dry trout fishery; open a brand new canoe route; add land to the Pepperbox Wilderness; and, increase rock climbing and whitewater rafting opportunities along the Beaver River. Negotiations set a precedent for other New York rivers slated for license review by the federal government. Sacandaga and Raquette Rivers are next.

State courts refuse to uphold trespass charges against canoeists who enter a section of Moose River from public land, canoe through lands owned by private club, and exit river from public land.

**1995:** Urges passage of a bill to protect landowners from liability for recreational injuries, now that courts have opened rivers to the public.



*"The past few years have yielded landmark environmental legislation for conservation efforts in the Adirondack Park. The Adirondack Council has played a critical role in accomplishing these objectives. For 20 years, the Council has been a vital force in educating the public about the importance of the Forever Wild Forest Preserve. It is also an invaluable resource to lawmakers, policy makers and the Council's own members.*

*The Council has been able to gain widespread public approval for sensible and progressive conservation initiatives in the Adirondack Park. That kind of grassroots organizing is essential to the legislative process.*

**— Assemb. Richard Brodsky  
Chairman  
EnCon Committee**

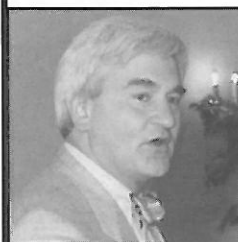
*"As an environmentalist that the Adirondack Council fighting to protect and preserve my tenure as Chairman of the Assembly's Environmental Conservation Committee between 1978 and 1990, we have done a great deal. Among these accomplishments is the passage of the acid rain control law in the state. It is only possible to achieve these results for the environment with the support of the people who make up the Adirondack Council."*



*"The Adirondack Council is one of this country's most effective environmental organizations. Their sense of focus and commitment to excellence are essential ingredients in advancing environmental protections."*

**— Christian Ballantyne  
Regional Director  
Sierra Club**

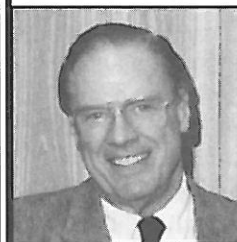
*During the seven years I served as Commissioner of New York's Department of Environmental Conservation I came to rely on the Adirondack Council as a source of accurate and fair advocacy, especially advocacy in the interests of future generations of New Yorkers. The Council, more than any other organization, served as a reminder of the great conservation history of New York State regarding the Adirondacks, and provided a link between that history and the present, always pointing the way to the future. It was a pleasure to work with the staff, knowing of their deep commitment, constant professionalism, and always-serious concern about the Park, its people and the quality of life of present and future generations of New Yorkers.*



**— Thomas C. Jorling  
NYSDEC Commissioner  
1987 - 1994  
V.P. Environmental Affairs  
International Paper Co.**

*"Although, as an Adirondack Town Supervisor, I am a natural enemy of the Adirondack Council, I have learned in recent years that, whatever our differences, the Council stands for an essential truth: the Adirondacks must be saved from the nibbling decline of its natural resources.*

*Failure of resident Adirondackers to seize the initiative in protecting shorefronts, water quality, open space, roadsides and scenic vistas has left a vacuum which the Council has importantly helped to fill. Someday, Adirondack state Legislators and local officials may throw off the shackles of the large landowners and other special interests. Until then, the Adirondack Council must stand in the gap, with moderation and respect for local concerns."*



**— Richard Purdue  
Indian Lake Town Supervisor**

and a Legislator, I know  
 as been a valuable ally in  
 re the environment. During  
 New York State  
 Conservation Committee  
 were able to accomplish a  
 omplishments was the first  
 ntry.  
 lieve such great protections  
 support and commitment of  
 rops such as the

**U.S. Rep. Maurice Hinchey**

*"The Adirondack Council is to  
 be commended for 20 years of  
 tireless effort on behalf of one of  
 New York State's — and our  
 nation's — greatest natural  
 treasures. The Council's members  
 have dedicated themselves to  
 preserving the Adirondacks as a  
 source of inspiration and wonder for the region's resi-  
 dents and visitors alike.*



*The Adirondacks are unquestionably among the  
 Empire State's most magnificent assets and the  
 Adirondack Council deserves our gratitude for ensuring  
 future generations will have their special beauty and  
 prized resources to enjoy and experience as we have."*

**— Sheldon Silver  
 NYS Assembly Speaker**

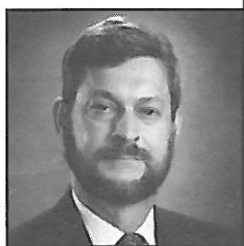
*"It's no coincidence that most of the publicly held Northern Forest ... lies  
 mainly in the Adirondack Park. That's a tribute to the foresight of New  
 York's preservationists, and the Adirondack Council, which vigilantly  
 guards this national treasure."*

**— Editorial  
 (Albany) Times-Union**

*"Niagara Mohawk's association with the  
 Adirondack Council has been instructive and benefi-  
 cial. We have worked together on projects ranging  
 from the celebration of the Adirondack Park Centen-  
 nial to comprehensive land management and planning  
 along the Upper Hudson River Greenway and the  
 Beaver River.*

*The Council's leaders are strong environmental  
 advocates who reach out to business to form creative  
 partnerships for sustainable development. I look  
 forward to our continued friendship as we work together  
 on issues affecting the Adirondack Park."*

**— William E. Davis  
 Chairman, CEO  
 Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.**



*"More than two decades ago, the Adirondack  
 Council's founding fathers met ... to consider the idea of  
 creating a consortium with the primary purpose of  
 protecting the Adirondack Park against any and all  
 threats.*

*One of those persons, Harold K. Hochschild, had  
 been chairman of Governor Rockefeller's commission on  
 the future of the Adirondack Park. In his words: 'The  
 idea is good. The Council is necessary. We need  
 money.' Mr. Hochschild was a very wise man.*

*The validity of his comment has often been tested  
 during the past 20 years. The Council is now recognized  
 as an indispensable link in the chain of Park protection.  
 We still need money."*

**— William T. Hord  
 Founding Chairman Pro Tem  
 The Adirondack Council**



# Building Healthy, Sustainable Communities

The Council's goals for protecting the Adirondacks include the need to work with local residents to build communities that can support themselves through good times and bad. In 1993, the Council created a formal Community Conservation program to help foster sustainable economic growth free from the boom-and-bust cycle that has plagued the Park for generations. But the Council was active long before then:

## Toxic Pesticides

One recent advancement of which the Council is extremely proud is the elimination of chemical pesticide spraying from airplanes to control black flies. The Council worked with local communities to end this human and ecosystem health risk and find safer methods for controlling the pesky, but harmless, little insects.

The Council:

**1977:** Objects to NYS Health Department grant program providing 50 percent funding to Adirondack towns to spray neurotoxins from airplanes, explaining there was no health risk from black fly bites. Files suit against Health Department, the Dept. of Environmental Conservation and towns of Keene, Webb and Black Brook, demanding an Environmental Impact Statement.

**1978:** Newly elected Attorney General Robert Abrams halts any spraying until an EIS is completed.

**1979:** Council sues again, noting the EIS is inadequate. Loses.

**1980:** Convinces DEC Commissioner Bob Flacke to stop spraying on state lands.

**1982:** Convinces new Health Commissioner David Axelrod to stop the 50-percent grant program. Half of the 30 towns still spraying stop. Indian Lake Town Supervisor Richard Purdue uses new bacterial treatment (Bti) to control larvae in streams. Announces that it's possible to play golf in June at local course.

**1983 to 1992:** Council works with local officials and environmental organizations to convince communities to either switch to Bti, or — better yet — allow natural predators to re-establish themselves.

**1992:** Works with Citizens for a Better Tomorrow to send letters to every resident of three towns still spraying neurotoxins from airplanes, including a copy of the pesticide label's warnings.

**1993:** Only North Elba decides to spray from an airplane after a raft of complaints about infestations.

**1994:** North Elba switches to Bti after Council chides town in State of the Park Report.

**1995:** For the second year, no towns spray.

## Promoting Clean Industry

Contrary to the rhetoric of anti-environmentalists in the Adirondacks, the Adirondack Council has never been a zero-growth advocate. The board and staff, early on, took the realistic approach that new development would occur, but that it could be managed in ways that did not detract from the natural character of the Park. As a result, the Council:

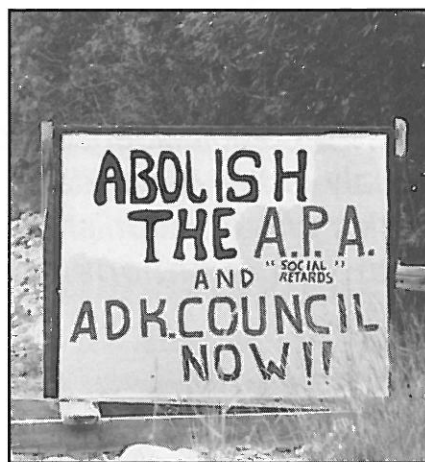
**1975:** Makes first public statement supporting light industry in the Park.

**1976 to 1991:** Continues to advocate for small-scale commercial development and industry that capitalizes on tourism and renewable natural resources.

**1991:** Supports Essex County Industrial Development Agency venture to lure Canadian cabinet-maker to Moriah. Proposal sails through Adirondack Park Agency review

*"Over the past twenty years, the Adirondack Council has taken more heat and friction than the tiles on the belly of the space shuttle. But no matter what reaction its policies to protect the Park have evoked — positive, negative, or in quite a few cases, hysterical — its resolve and unique foresight have never been questioned. Simply put, for two decades, the Council has talked the talk and walked the walk. You can't ask for more from an organization that looks out for all of our best interests."*

— Tom Hughes  
President and Publisher  
Adirondack Life magazine



Roadside welcome in Crown Point, 1992.

process, but bogs down as Canadian economy slows. Joins Adirondack North Country Association to help promote sustainable economic development.

**1992:** Supports ANCA plan to assist in creating more sawmills and other wood-product enterprises.

**1993:** Supports IDA plan to bring modular housing manufacturer to Moriah.

**1994 to 1995:** Co-founds Adirondack Community Development Loan Fund, which will provide businesses with loans for environmentally sustainable development. Also: Participates in the Lake Placid Club Development Task Force, proposing ways to protect scenic resources and Lake Placid's economy.

## Landfills

In 1993 the Council helped to convince the Cuomo Administration that it should make a special accommodation for small towns in the Adirondack Park when it came to the

expansive demands of state-required landfill closure.

In response, the administration approved an enhanced grant program for towns of less than 10,000 people. Rather than the standard 50 percent grant, those towns were made eligible for 75 percent grants and 25 percent zero-interest loans for the projects.

The Council will continue to encourage the Pataki Administration to extend the program to towns that have not yet obtained a grant.

## Anti-Environmentalism

One of the most frustrating trends in the Council's efforts to protect the Park's natural resources has been the rise of an anti-environmental movement, which parallels the so-called Wise Use movement nationwide.

Starting with the 1990 release of the report of the Governor's Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century, the local anti-environmental movement mushroomed and then receded. Here's how things progressed:

**1990:** In April, pickets surround Council office.

In **May**, anti-environmental rally at Elizabethtown-Lewis school prompts threats of violence against environmental groups. Council building vandalized with swastikas and fake headstones. Mob surrounds home of Council staff member and shouts threats until deputy sheriff disperses it. Two anti-Commission Report road rallies held along Northway. Hecklers disrupt meeting at Paul Smiths.

In **June**, State troopers and Conservation Police in tense standoff with a mob objecting to closing of Crane Pond Road in Pharaoh Lake Wilderness. Masked "Adirondack Minutemen" bulldoze away boulders blocking Crane Pond Road and carry them off to Schroon Lake rally.

In **November**, anti-Environmental Quality Bond Act road rally held from Frontier Town to Albany.

**1991:** In April, town crew cleans up manure piles found in front of Adirondack Council office as Adirondack Solidarity Alliance members arrive to picket on the group's first

sprayed with septic sludge.

In **November**, Council board member's Ticonderoga dental office burned by arsonist.

*"The Adirondack Council, despite being under constant fire from property-rights groups, has worked with Adirondack towns to help secure funding for such community needs as water and sewage treatment and landfill improvements."*

— **"The Northern Forest"**  
**Richard Ober & David Dobbs**

**1992:** Anti-environmentalists sue Adirondack Council, APA, National Audubon Society and others for \$50 million.

In **April**, Solidarity Alliance holds anniversary picket at Council office. In **June**, Council staff member punched in the face by Solidarity Alliance leader at State Capitol.

In **August**, on the same night, Council office vandalized with paint and barn of a Park Agency commissioner is burned. In **November**, Solidarity Alliance illegally invades polling places in several Essex County towns to administer an exit poll the Board of Elections had refused to allow. County judge orders alliance "ballot boxes" removed.

**1993:** State Supreme Court and Appellate Division dismiss \$50 million lawsuit.

**1994:** NYS Court of Appeals dismisses \$50 million lawsuit. Anti-environmentalist refuses to yield microphone at Northern Forest Lands meeting in Queensbury.

In **April**, plan to protect Lake Champlain prompts threats of violence at public meetings in Beekmantown and Westport. In **May**, member of Solidarity Alliance admits he attended a meeting of local "militia group" in Crown Point.

## Education Program

Realizing middle school is the last time students in New York's public schools are required to take a science course, the Council felt it needed to work with students that age to educate a large number of New York residents about the importance of the Adirondack Park.

After working cooperatively with Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. on events to celebrate the Adirondack Park Centennial in 1992, the Council expanded that relationship to embark on a new education project. NiMo joined with the Adirondack Council, Adirondack North Country Assoc. and educators from throughout the north country, to fashion an education project for more than 300,000 students in the NiMo service area. The program will inform

students about the unique resources of the Adirondack Park and enable them to recognize the special qualities of their own communities. The Council commissioned a new map of the Adirondack Park for the project, showing all of the Park's public land and how to reach it from a highway. Around the map are brilliantly colored illustrations of the plants and animals that make up 11 distinct Adirondack ecosystems. Each species is labeled. Council staff are frequent guest lecturers at schools, colleges and universities statewide.

*"Our organization is a proponent of tourism facility growth in the hamlets of the Adirondacks. We have found that the Adirondack Council is a willing participant in discussions and programs which will lead to increased economic flow and revitalization of these hamlets."*

— **James B. McKenna**  
**Director, Lake Placid/Essex County Visitor's Bureau**

anniversary.

In **July**, Park Agency vehicle shot several times in Clintonville following an inspection of a potential violation, as Solidarity Alliance protests nearby.

In **August**, roofing nails found scattered along street in front of Council office. Northern Forest Lands Council meeting in Ray Brook shut down by screaming protesters.

In **September**, vegetables and eggs laced with skunk oil hurled at Council building. In **October**, Council office

# Board of Directors Past & Present

## Chairpersons

**R. Courtney Jones**  
1975 - 1977  
\*\*\*\*

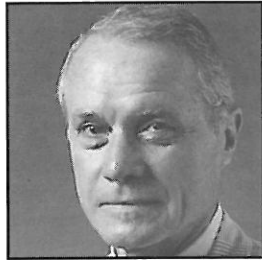
**Harold A. Jerry**  
1977 - 1980  
\*\*\*\*

**Frances Beinecke**  
1980 - 1985  
\*\*\*\*

**Kim Elliman**  
1985 - 1989  
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**Barbara Glaser**  
1989 - 1991  
\*\*\*\*

**Peter Borrelli**  
1991 - 1995

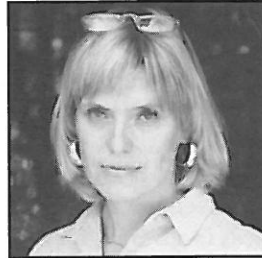


Timothy H. Raab

Jerry



Beinecke



Alan Cedarstrom

Glaser



Elliman and Gov. Mario M. Cuomo in 1986

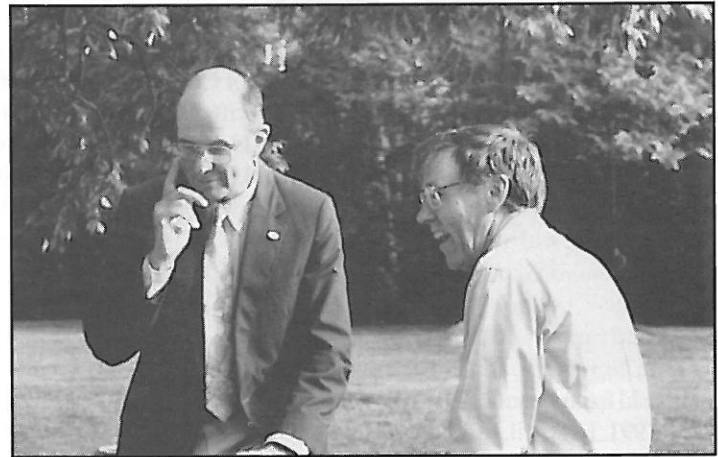
## Board Members

John H. Adams  
Stephen K. Allinger\*  
Julius G. Bede  
Timothy L. Barnett  
Richard Beamish  
Frances Beinecke  
Peter A.A. Berle  
Richard Booth  
Peter R. Borrelli\*  
John Bradley  
Wayne H. Byrne

Charles H. Callison  
Alison Hudnut Clarkson\*  
Thomas Cobb  
David C. Condliffe\*  
Dean L. Cook, D.M.D.\*  
Arthur M. Crocker  
James C. Dawson\*  
George D. Davis  
Marilyn Murphy Dubois  
Kim Elliman  
Edward Earl  
John L. Ernst\*  
Lynn T. Edgerton  
Bente Everhart  
Alfred S. Forsyth  
Barbara Glaser\*  
Alyse Gray\*  
Gary F. Heurich\*

Harold A. Jerry  
Sally Johnson  
R. Courtney Jones  
Robert J. Kafin  
George R. Lamb\*  
Ernest LaPrairie\*  
Richard W. Lawrence  
James Marshall  
Daniel McGough\*  
Frederick O'Neal  
John M.C. Peterson  
Clarence A. Petty\*  
Katharine M. Preston\*  
Mary Prime  
James Rogers III  
John K. Ryder, Jr.\*  
Samuel Sage  
Arthur Savage  
Paul Schaefer  
Ellen Marshall Scholle\*  
Gene Setzer  
David Skovron\*  
David Sive  
Constance A. Tate\*  
Thomas D. Thacher II\*  
Breck Trautwein  
Francis B. Trudeau  
Norman Van Valkenburgh\*  
Curtis R. Welling\*

William T. Hord  
(\* Current members)



Chairman Borrelli and Park Agency Chairman John Collins prior to the Council's 1993 Awards Dinner.



Award winners Martha Foley of WSLU-FM and Ken Brown of the APA's Visitor Interpretive Centers accept the Council's 1994 Outstanding Organization award for the program Field Notes.

# Staff, Awards Past & Present

## Our Annual Award Winners

1984

**Conservationist of the Year**

Clarence A. Petty

**Park Communicator**

Barbara McMartin

**Exemplary Commercial Activity**

Kathleen & Carl Ferullo

**Exemplary Government Project**

NYS Dept. of Transportation

Blue Mountain Lake Road

1985

**Conservationist of the Year**

Paul Schaefer

**Exemplary State Government Action**

Thomas Brown

NYS Dept. of

Environmental Conservation

**Exemplary Local Government Action**

Mary Ellen Keith

Town of Franklin

**Exemplary Commercial Use**

Raquette River

Bike & Boat Company

**Exemplary Forest Practice**

Roger Belzile

Robert Butts

**Volunteer of the Year**

Virginia Davis

1986

**Conservationist of the Year**

Mario M. Cuomo

**Distinguished Achievement**

Edith Mitchell

Norman Van Valkenburgh

Carl Hathaway

Ralph Morrow

Joan Payne

Susan Beck

Thomas Ulasewicz

1987

**Conservationist of the Year**

Peter Paine Jr.

**Distinguished Achievement**

Edwin Ketchledge

Paul Jamieson

David Wooley

Paul & Nancy Cormack

Save The Falls

1988

**Conservationist of the Year**

David L. Newhouse

1989

**Conservationist of the Year**

Harold A. Jerry

**Park Communicator**

Jack Leadley Jr.

**Outstanding Educator**

Jack Drury

1990

**Conservationist of the Year**

John Oakes

**Outstanding Adirondackers**

Nathan Farb

Wayne Failing

Charles Hayes

George & Mary Heim

Bob Hammerslag

1991

**Conservationist of the Year**

Robert C. Glennon

**Land Stewardship**

Adirondack Conservancy/Adirondack

Land Trust

**Park Educator**

Ross S. Whaley

**Citizen Activists**

Eleanor & Monty Webb

**Corporate Conscience**

Lyons Falls Pulp & Paper

**Park Communicator**

Adirondack Life

1992

**Conservationist of the Year**

Assemblyman Maurice Hinchey

**Park Heritage**

Barbara McMartin

**Corporate Conscience**

Niagara Mohawk

**Park Communicator**

Robert Hall

**Citizen Activist**

Robert Kelly

**Land Stewardship**

U.S. Rep. Sherwood Boehlert

1993

**Conservationist of the Year**

George Davis

**Land Stewardship**

International Paper Co.

**Park Communicator**

WCFE-TV, Plattsburgh, NY

**Park Heritage**

Sagamore Institute

**Citizen Activist**

David Bronston

1994

**Outstanding Adirondack Organizations**

Residents Committee to Protect the Adirondacks

Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks

Adirondack Park Agency Visitor Interpretive Centers/WSLU-FM

PRIDE of Ticonderoga

## Executive Directors



Randorf



Davis



Clusen

**Gary Randorf**

1977 - 1983

1984 - 1987

1989 - 1990

**George Davis**

(Acting)

1983 - 1984

**Charles Clusen**

1987 - 1989

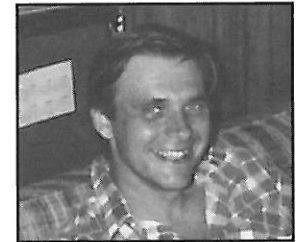
**Bernard C. Melewski**

(Acting)

1990 - 1991

**Timothy J. Burke**

1991 - present



Melewski

## Staff Members

Lilia Anson\*

Eleanor Audino\*

Jacqueline Audino

Donna Beal

Richard Beamish

Elaine Burke\*

Timothy J. Burke\*

Michael T. Carr

Charles M. Clusen

Anita L. Davis

George D. Davis

Vivienne K. Degan

Michael G. DiNunzio\*

Lisa M. Genier\*

Evelyn A. Hatch

Bernard C. Melewski\*

Cindy Monty

Joseph M. Moore\*

Mary Lou Moore\*

David G. Nelson\*

Wendy O'Neil\*

Pam Pearlman

Daniel R. Plumley

Lynne Poteau

Gary A. Randorf\*

John F. Sheehan\*

Eric J. Siy

Pam Smiler

Loretta Surprenant\*

Anne Trachtenberg\*

Emily Turek

## Staff Interns

Jeff Brohel

Brooksie Carlisle

Joseph Center

Colleen Chadwick

Dina D'Amico

Anthony Emmerich

Douglas Gerhardt

Charles Lee

Amy Lenard

Kathleen Leyden

Valerie Luzadis

Donna Maturi

David G. Nelson\*

Kevin Olvany

Artie Pierce

Judith Rickman

Kellie Rowden

Stephen Sholle

Rene Vernold

(\* Current staff)

# Supporters Who Make Everything Possible

For the first 10 years of the Council's life, it had a great deal of moral support from members of its member organizations. However, the Council had few members of its own who paid dues and helped to cover the ever-increasing cost of Park protection.

In 1986, the board and staff decided that investment in the Council's membership-building program would enable the Council to reach its full potential as a catalyst for permanent protection of the Park's natural resources.

A generous challenge grant made by the Rockefeller Family Fund sparked a great deal of other foundation support. Our campaign was supported by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Town Creek Foundation, F.M. Kirby Foundation, Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation, Recreational Equipment, Inc., J.M. Kaplan Fund, Prospect Hill Foundation and American Conservation Association.

By January 1987, the Council had begun a direct mail campaign, sending detailed letters to prospective members, explaining why the Council needed their support. The staff set a goal of 5,000 members by 1989. The response was overwhelming. It appears that we struck a responsive chord with a message that stressed both the mounting development threats and the unprecedented preservation opportunities in the Adirondacks — both of which are still with us today.

By February, 1988, the Council announced that its goal had been reached a year early. By 1990, that figure had increased more than three-fold. Today, the Council counts more than 18,000 people as its members.

In 1990, we asked our members to tell us about themselves. We conducted a membership survey. It revealed that three out of four live in New York. The bulk of out-of-state members live in New England or the Mid-Atlantic states. Council members tend to be highly educated (forty

percent had a post-graduate degree). Our members are employed in a range of professions, including professors and teachers (18%), executives and administrators (11%), writers and artists (9%), engineers (7%), physicians (5%), scientists (4%) attorneys (3%). Another 12 percent are in secretarial, sales or real estate jobs. Roughly 26 percent are retired.

The overall membership reflects a balanced division between the political parties that is similar to the national average — although Council members lean towards being more independent. Twenty-two percent identify themselves as Republicans and 22 percent as Democrats. Forty-eight percent are Independents, with the remainder expressing no party preference.

Membership in the Adirondack Council entitles one to receive our publications, including newsletters and Action Alerts, an annual "State of the Park" report and special reports about important issues facing the Adirondack Park. In addition to these tangible benefits, of course, joining the Adirondack Council is a meaningful way to help protect the Adirondack Park.

## Grassroots Activism

For the past five years, the Council has developed a roster of highly motivated citizens activists across New York who are willing to take personal action to protect the Adirondacks. Whether they choose to write a letter to a Legislator, make a phone call to a policy maker, attend a public hearing or visit with a local Congressional representative, the Council's activists stand ready.

By providing activists with up-to-date information through Action Alerts and letters, the Council is able to muster an immediate wave of public response to policy decisions or proposed legislation.

Periodically, the Council holds training sessions to provide activists with detailed information on specific topics. Here's a rundown:

**1991:** Albany, on Park protection.

**1992:** February, on Park protection in Rochester; May, on Long Island.

**1994:** Albany, on Northern Forest/Forever Wild clause.

**1995:** April, in Rome on Northern Forest/Forever Wild; May, at Blue Mountain Lake.

In addition, the Council has held Lobby Days in which activists traveled to Albany to meet face-to-face with their state Legislators and the Governor's staff members.

Today, roughly 2,500 of the Council's 18,000-plus members count themselves as activists.



*Council members rejoiced in 1992 as this portion of the Raquette River became Forest Preserve.*



# Special Thanks to Foundations

The Adirondack Council extends a special thanks to the following foundation supporters of the Adirondack Council, whose programs grants have made possible our special campaigns and a variety of projects incorporating advocacy, research and educational efforts. Our generous individual supporters are too numerous to mention.

**Louis and Anne Abrons Foundation, Inc.**  
**American Conservation Association, Inc.**  
**Saul Z. and Amy Scheuer Cohen Family Foundation, Inc.**  
**Cameron Memorial Fund**  
**Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Inc.**  
**Eastman Kodak Company**  
**The Arthur M. & Olga T. Eisig-Arthur M. & Kate E. Tode Foundation, Inc.**  
**The Charles Engelhard Foundation**  
**The Ford Foundation**  
**Fund for Preservation of Wildlife and Natural Areas**  
**Harder Foundation**  
**HKH Foundation**  
**W. Alton Jones Foundation, Inc.**  
**The J.M. Kaplan Fund**  
**E.M. Kirby Foundation, Inc.**  
**Knox Family Foundation**  
**Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation**  
**The New Hope Foundation**

**New York Telephone Company**  
**New York Times Company Foundation**  
**The Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc**  
**The George W. Perkins Memorial Fund**  
**Philip Morris Companies, Inc.**  
**Mary Norris Preyer Fund**  
**The Prospect Hill Foundation, Inc.**  
**Recreation Equipment, Inc.**  
**Rockefeller Family Fund**  
**The Florence and John Schumann Foundation**  
**The Philanthropic Collaborative, Inc.**  
**The Wilderness Society**  
**Tortuga Foundation**  
**Town Creek Foundation**  
**The Underhill Foundation**  
**Unity Avenue Foundation**  
**Frank Weeden Foundation**  
**William P. Wharton Trust**  
**Wild Wings Foundation**

*"Congratulations on your 20th Anniversary!*

*The Adirondack Council exemplifies what we need most in the nation — the knowledge that our individual good will be found in the good of the whole community. May you celebrate many more successful anniversaries!*

*Excelsior!"*

— Mario M. Cuomo  
NYS Governor, 1982 - 1994

## The Park's Public Heritage...

### Continued from Page 3

ment Conference. Asks for protection for key pristine parcels of land within the basin; a package of programs and incentives to control runoff; encouragement for local land-use planning, and an independent body with the authority to carry out the recommendations of the conference. Helped secure funds for the purchase of the Heurich Estate, the longest stretch of pristine private land on the lake.

**1995:** Releases a 24-page booklet entitled "Lake Champlain: Mirror of the Mountains," illustrating the lake's problems and possible solutions in the words of the Council and other local experts.

### Public Safety Investment

In 1994, when the Legislature was haggling over the budget, the Council worked directly with Forest Rangers to increase funding for the long-ignored unit. Council staff and rangers visited Legislators together to explain that the Ranger ranks were dwindling severely, endangering the public. The Council helped obtain more than \$1.5 million in new funding. That allowed DEC to hold its first Ranger Training Academy, obtain new equipment and to fill every vacant position.

Council staff members were honored at the graduation ceremony.

### Adirondack Wildlife Program

One of the main reasons the Council spends so much time protecting land and water in the Adirondack Park is the wildlife habitat it provides. But since some of the Park's native species were killed off a century or more ago, it will take a little help to allow them to re-establish a home here. One of the most important research efforts into reintroduction of native species is the Adirondack Wildlife Program operated by the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, located at Syracuse University.

**1988:** AWP begins reintroduction of Canada lynx to Adirondack High Peaks Wilderness with 18 cats.

**1989:** Thirty-two more lynx released.

**1990:** Final 33 lynx released.

**1991:** Council helps find new sponsor for AWP funding when Gov. Cuomo cuts its funding in his proposal: Assemblyman James Tallon, D-Binghamton.

**1993:** Council helps convince Assemblyman Michael Bragman, D-Syracuse, to adopt the program when Tallon retires from politics.

# The Best Dreams of its Founders...

*An Essay by Paul Schaefer*

After more than 20 years of conflict over the proposed construction of more than a score of dams in the Adirondack Park, Governor Rockefeller moved to end such conflicts which were disrupting normal legislative processes. In 1968 he created a Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondack Park, which was requested to investigate and settle the problems facing the Park.

The Commission was composed of leading conservationists of the State — including some who were known to be opposed to the idea of such a commission. It completed its exhaustive study of the Adirondacks at the end of 1970, producing a voluminous series of documents delving into the possibilities of both public and private land uses within the Adirondack Park.

Notable in the recommendations that this commission made was the proposed creation of the Adirondack Park Agency, which Commission Chairman Harold Hochschild and Executive Director Harold Jerry placed first on the list of the entire Adirondack region — an area comprising 20 percent of the land and water surface of the State of New York. In the century-old history of the Adirondacks there had never been such a study as this one made for the people of the State to contemplate.

In 1965 the Gooley Dam proposal had surfaced. Plans were made for a huge dam which could have flooded 35 miles of the upper Hudson River. After years of controversy this dam was defeated in 1969 by the unanimous vote of both the State Senate and the Assembly. This victory for conservationists had resulted in the Governor appointing a new commission to study the water supply needs of southeastern

New York State, which concluded that the conservationists' views had been essentially correct.

Subsequent actions by the Governor in signing a public land use plan in 1971 and a private land use plan on May 22, 1973, and the completion of the work of the Water Supply Commission in 1974, added fuel to the conflict over the use of public and private lands in the Park. By 1975 controversy reached such a high level that it became clear that these subjects had to be addressed by those concerned with the future of the Park.

The result was the organization of the Adirondack Council in 1975. The magnitude of these issues attracted to the new organization some of the best minds in the State. In addition to the valuable work consistently being carried on by the existing organizations such as the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, what was desperately needed was a new coalition of

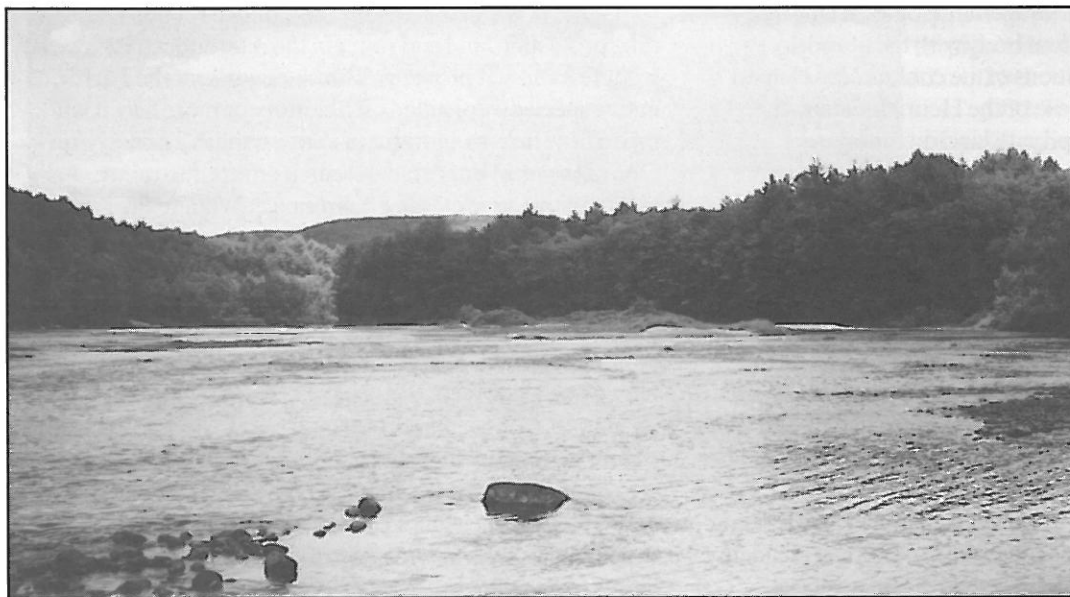
people from all walks of life to support the Adirondack Park Agency and the newly-formed concepts of land use in the Adirondacks.

The Adirondack Council filled this need by combining a very large membership of New York State citizens with connections to national conservation groups like the Wilderness Society.

In the twenty years since the Council's founding, due to the quality of its leadership and the work of its dedicated staff including legal and financial experts, botanists, ecologists and photographers, the Adirondack Council has unquestionably been a vital factor in the development of an Adirondack Park that substantially fulfills the best dreams of its founders over a century ago.



*Schaefer*



*In 1992, a dream shared by Paul Schaefer and the Adirondack Council came true when the Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. agreed to convey a substantial portion of its holdings along the Upper Hudson River to the state and some of the communities along the corridor. NiMo also agreed to a comprehensive land-use plan for the rest of its nearby holdings.*

*"The Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks helped to found the Adirondack Council in 1975 and our two organizations have enjoyed warm and cooperative relations ever since. While each organization has its independence and some unique views, features and programs, the Association remains a member organization of the Council and offers hearty congratulations and best wishes on your twentieth anniversary.*

*The Adirondack Council continues to play a vital role in Adirondack Park affairs. We will have need of each other and many others in the years ahead."*

**— David Gibson**  
**Executive Director**  
**Assoc. for the Protection of the Adirondacks**

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*"Over the past 20 years, the Adirondack Council has upheld the 140-year effort to protect the Adirondack Park. In these years, the Adirondack Council has guarded the vision and the work of the likes of S.H. Hammond, George Perkins Marsh, Verplanck Colvin, Seneca Ray Stoddard, Charles Sargent, Louis Marshall, George Marshall, Bob Marshall, John Apperson, Harold Hochschild and Paul Schaefer — vigilant defenders all of our "Central Park for the World."*

*This vision for the Adirondack Park proudly states that wilderness is an essential part of the human experience; that the Adirondack Park is home to thousands of people as well as the moose, lynx, wolf and gray jay; that not only can people live with nature, but that we must live with nature."*

**— Peter Bauer**  
**Executive Director**  
**Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks**

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*"What do I think of when I think of the Council? I think of twenty years of concerted effort to keep the public aware of the Park and its needs.*

*I think of the Council staff members who have become synonymous with protection of the Park ... I think of the board members who have provided time, expertise and resources so that the Council can continue to be the voice of various groups interested in the Park.*

*I think of the 2020 VISION documents which made us even more aware of the beauty and fragility of the Park. I think of the annual State of the Park [report], which keeps a score card on the performance of those responsible for the Park.*

*Most of all, though, I think of the task ahead of the Council. Again, still, more than ever — choose your phrase — the Park needs a strong body of friends to speak for it, to work for it, to fight for it. The Council has that job."*

**— John R. Collins Jr.**  
**Chairman**  
**Adirondack Park Agency**

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*"...Through partnerships, coalition building and teamwork, the Adirondack Council has helped national organizations such as Audubon to ensure that their strengths in grassroots activism, legislative policy and educational outreach have had the most effective impact on Adirondack Park policies.*

*Without the Adirondack Council, our Adirondack campaign would be like an apple without its core."*

**— David Miller**  
**Regional Vice President**  
**National Audubon Society**

