

## **Cooperstown native joins OCCA board of directors**

Jim Patrick of Ipswich, Ma. and Cooperstown is the newest member to join the Board of Directors of the Otsego County Conservation Association. He brings to the organization both an appreciation for the natural features of the Cooperstown area as well as skills in financial management.

The geography of his personal history has given him a sense of watershed stewardship.

“I grew up in Cooperstown in various locations but always close to or on Otsego Lake, so I bring a rooted appreciation for the watershed. I attended the University of New Hampshire and also spent a lot of time in Maine guiding on the Allagash River. I now live near a river in Ipswich, but we are so fortunate to be able to spend summers on the lake in Cooperstown,” Patrick said.

Patrick initially got involved with OCCA when he was approached by its Fundraising Committee. He liked what he learned about the work of the organization and began to work more with OCCA in fundraising efforts.

“I was really impressed with the collegial nature of the Board, despite the high level of productivity and accountability in a volunteer organization. It's clear everyone is really passionate about their participation, so when I was asked if I would be interested, I was thrilled to help.”

He wants to lead by example through volunteering, fundraising, helping with Board involvement, and promoting awareness in the community.

For a number of years, Patrick worked in New York City and Boston in the financial services industry. He intends to apply his expertise in finances to OCCA's needs for investment oversight, asset allocation and funds management.

Patrick, who currently works as a consultant, spent this winter as a ski patrol at Sugarloaf, Me. He and his wife, Stephanie, hope to pass on a love of the local natural surroundings to their three children, Kyle, 11, Elizabeth, 7, and Margaret, 4.

OCCA is a private, non-profit environmental membership organization dedicated to promoting the enjoyment and sustainable use of Otsego County's natural resources through education, advocacy, resource management, research, and planning. For more information about OCCA, or to donate in support of its mission, call 547-4488 or visit [www.occainfo.org](http://www.occainfo.org).