



E-BULLETIN FROM OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
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LOW CARBON DIET WILL HELP REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINT: At the first ever meeting of the Village of Cooperstown's Sustainability Committee held on Sept. 5, OCCA president Martha Clarvoe presented the concept of the "low carbon diet," which, if followed, will reduce the carbon footprint of its adherents. The term carbon footprint indicates the measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases produced and measured in units of carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide production is typically from energy used in the home and in transport, including travel by cars, airplanes, rail and other forms of public transportation. The committee agreed to form an "eco-team" to follow the diet and report to village residents on results. The low carbon diet is a 30-day program based on David Gershon's book of the same name. Anyone wishing to purchase the book through OCCA may call Clarvoe at 547-4020.

BILL WOULD PROTECT DRINKING WATER FROM NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT: Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) is aggressively pressing for the passage of a bill he coauthored that would close a legislative loophole which exempts hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas exploration and drilling from regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). According to Hinchey's website, while New York State law currently provides regulatory oversight for this process, such oversight varies considerably from state to state. The bill, H.R. 7231, would reinstate basic federal standards for hydraulic fracturing under the SDWA and enable the U.S. Environment Protection Agency (EPA) to protect drinking water supplies in states with little or no regulations. According to a recent press release, Hinchey said it's imperative that we safeguard our drinking water from any chemicals associated with natural gas drilling. "I understand the desire to expand natural gas development across the country, but we must do so carefully and intelligently," Hinchey said. "I'm encouraged that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is working to safeguard our water resources in New York, particularly in the New York City Watershed and Delaware River Basin. However, we must ensure that drinking water in all states is protected from toxic chemicals associated with hydraulic fracturing. We must avoid a situation in which a generation or less from now, people shake their heads and wonder how our government could have been so short-sighted and foolish to exempt hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Drinking Water Act." To read the press release in its entirety, visit http://www.house.gov/list/press/ny22_hinchey/morenews/111908SafeDrinkingWaterActHydraulicFracturing.html

HARTWICK STUDY PROVIDES PLANNING TOOL FOR RT. 28 CORRIDOR: The water resource assessment of the stretch of New York State Route 28 running through the Town of Hartwick has been completed. The study, commissioned by the Hartwick Town Board in partnership with OCCA, was prepared by the Clifton Park firm Alpha Geoscience. "This section of Route 28 is one of the fastest growing developed parts of Otsego County," said Erik Miller, OCCA executive director. "OCCA wanted to help fund this project so that the town would have a scientifically documented planning tool when making decisions about the use of water resources in this corridor." Alpha Geoscience found that parts of the study area had significant aquifer potential although variations do exist. There are many areas in which yields are insufficient for some developments. Also, some of the same areas that have sufficient water supplies also have increased potential for groundwater contamination. Four copies of the report are available for public access in the Hartwick Town Hall. Copies of the report can also be viewed at the OCCA office during business hours by calling 547-4488.

YOUNGS JOINS OCCA STAFF AS ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR: Darla M. Youngs joined the Otsego County Conservation Association staff as administrative director in October of this year, coming to the organization from Otsego 2000, where she was associate director. Youngs brings with her strong organizational skills along with graphic design, bookkeeping, management, public relations and journalism experience. In recent years, Youngs has directed the Cooperstown Farmers' Market and has worked on the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce Area Guide. She has served on the Otsego Lake Festival Executive Committee, the Earth Festival Steering Committee and is secretary of the Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee.

OCCA ENCOURAGES CARPOOLING THROUGH RIDE-SHARE WEBSITE: The Otsego County Conservation Association has posted a link to eRideShare.com on its website to encourage greater sharing of transportation between county residents and, ultimately, to conserve energy and help reduce the carbon footprint of individual residents. The eRideShare program advocates sharing rides not only due to higher gasoline costs, but for other reasons as well, such as the wear and tear of driving on automobiles, which costs more than gas in the long run. Visit OCCA's website at www.occainfo.org.