

By Anthony F. Hall

Immodestly, but not inaccurately, W.H.H. Murray, the author of “Adventures in the Wilderness,” once wrote: “one volume – purely literary, published by the most select publishing house in the country at that time, and a lecture by the author of the book, made the wilderness famous and sent the thousands into it.”

Murray wrote those words a couple of years before his death in 1904; since then, those thousands have grown into millions.

Although aware of New York State’s legislative and constitutional efforts to protect the Adirondacks (Murray was among the first people invited to join the newly-formed Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks in 1902), it is not clear how interested the aging preacher-turned-author was in those efforts.

Nevertheless, by popularizing the Adirondacks, he also created a constituency for their protection.

That may be one reason why the Kelly Adirondack Center at Union College has mounted a new exhibition to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the publication of “Adventures in the Wilderness.”

Located, appropriately enough, in the former “upstate legislative office” of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks (when it was the home of the organization’s vice-president, Paul Schaefer), the Kelly Center houses an unsurpassed collection of material related the Adirondack Park: rare books, maps, photographs, documents and the personal papers of such Adirondack notables as John Apperson, Louis and Bob Marshall, Howard Zahnheiser, Paul Schaefer and Jeanne Robert Foster.

The Kelly Center’s exhibits frequently draw upon those archives. Its current show, though, comes largely from the collection of Randall Beach (Union ’94) and his wife, Sarah Callahan Beach.

As it happens, Randall Beach, an Albany attorney who grew up in Plattsburgh, is the great-great grandson of Murray.

And with Sarah, he is the founder Murray’s Fools Distilling Company, the first distillery to be built (legally) in Clinton County since prohibition.

Murray’s Fools, of course, were the hapless urban dwellers drawn to the Adirondacks in after the 1869 publication of “Adventures in the Wilderness.”

At least a few, though, returned to establish camps on Adirondack lakes and become expert sportsmen, tireless hikers and some of the region’s first conservationists.

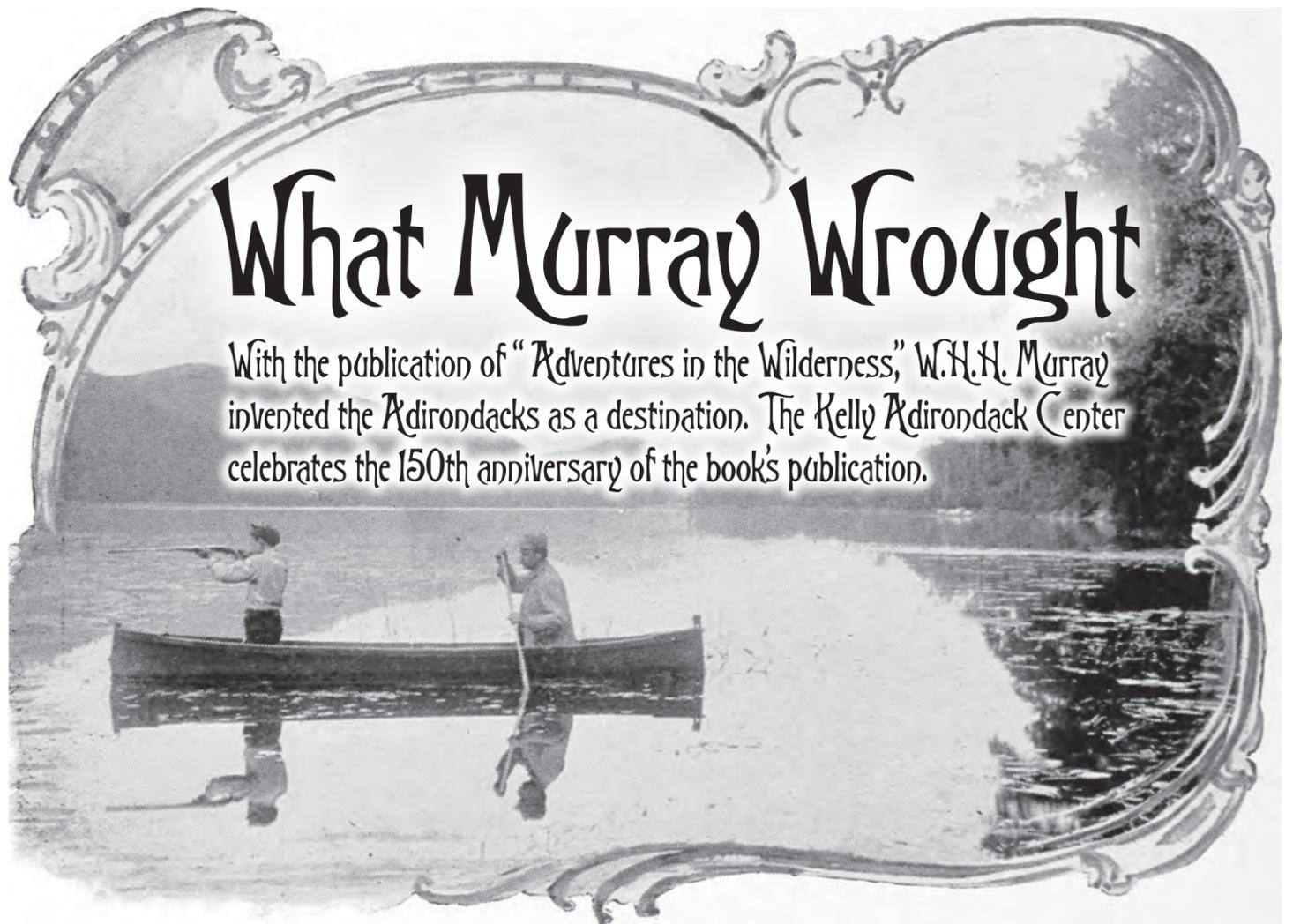
“Murray’s Fools Distilling Company seeks to create and provide fine spirits fashioned for those who, just as the original Murray’s Fools, have independent streaks, courage, adventurous souls and live for nature’s quiet moments,” says the Beaches’ marketing material.

At the exhibition’s opening on January 31, the Beaches were on hand to offer samples of Murray’s Fools line of craft spirits: voda, apple brandy, whiskey and acquavit.

Beach also announced that he has all but completed the first modern biography of Murray. With access to family papers, many of them never seen before, Beach’s book will more than supplement and correct the errors of fact found in the last biography of Murray. (Published in 1905, that book was written by Harry Radford, better known for his efforts to re-introduce the moose and the beaver to the Adirondacks and for his death at the hands of his guides in Alaska.) It will introduce Murray to a new generation of Adirondack conservationists.

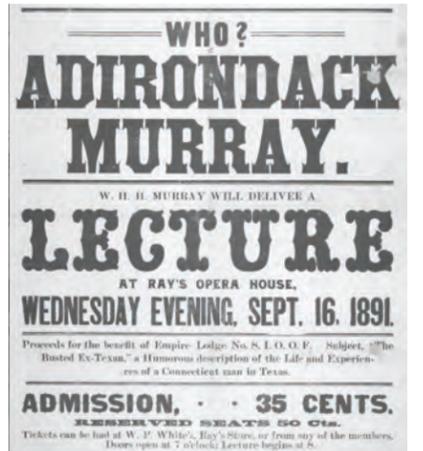
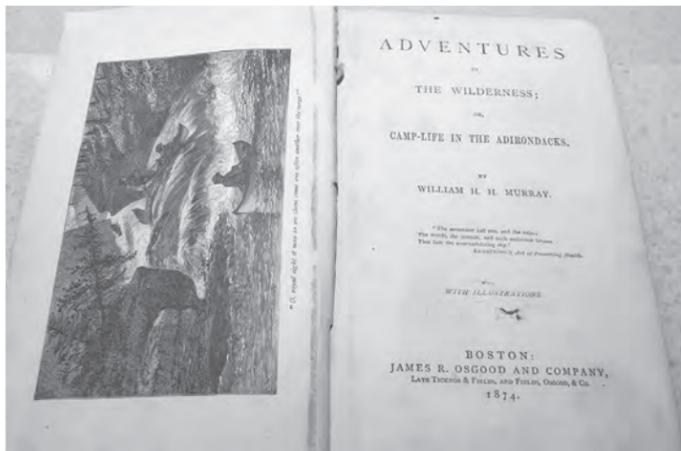
Beach spoke about the life, work and influence of W.H.H. Murray at the exhibition’s January 31 opening.

Addressing a full house in Paul Schaefer’s famous “Adirondack



What Murray Wrought

With the publication of “Adventures in the Wilderness,” W.H.H. Murray invented the Adirondacks as a destination. The Kelly Adirondack Center celebrates the 150th anniversary of the book’s publication.



Above: a portrait of W.H.H. Murray displayed in the Kelly Adirondack Center’s new exhibition; a later edition of Murray’s most famous book, “Adventures in the Wilderness;” a poster advertising one of the hundreds of lectures that supported him and his family; and Randall Beach, Murray’s great-great grandson, speaking at the Kelly Center Jan. 31.

Room,” the centerpiece of which is the wall-sized, three dimensional map created by Schaefer and his cohort of fellow conservationists, Beach said Murray’s was “a much more complex, interesting and even scandalous life than we knew.”

For example, while still preaching at the Park Church in Boston, Murray made “obscene” amounts of money raising and racing horses.

And, of course, he was known as “a game hog” among Adirondack guides.

But perhaps the greatest scandal of his life was also his greatest

success – publishing the book that lured thousands of “over-dressed, over-packed and under-prepared” greenhorns to a region that was unprepared for them.

In 1869, the year that “Adventures in the Wilderness” was published, there were only three hotels and a few rustic boarding houses within the Adirondack interior.

It would have been impossible to accommodate a trickle of tourism; “Adventures in the Wilderness” unleashed a cataract, known to this day as “Murray’s Rush.”

Published in April, “the book



went crazy; it was everywhere. Within six months, it went through ten printings,” said Beach.

It goes without saying that the wilderness experience Murray

promised existed, for the most part, in his own imagination.

Those who actually made it to “the great north woods” swatted

See MURRAY Page 22

THE Original Vacation IS Calling!

Start your adventure at VISITLAKEGEORGE.COM

Olive's Ti Pi Reopens After Five Year Gap

By Lohr McKinstry

SPECIAL TO THE LAKE GEORGE MIRROR

A beloved and long-closed pizza parlor in Ticonderoga is reopening as Olive's Ti Pi soon.

For years, Ticonderoga area residents went to Ti Pi at 24 Wayne Ave., but it shut down in 2014 after changing hands and downgrading its menu to only a few choices.

Now, the restaurant has been purchased, renovated and will be operating under the new ownership of Olivia Harrison and her father, Mark Harrison.

To show off the new dining room, Olive's Ti Pi, in coordination with the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce, will host a grand opening and ribbon cutting celebration on Thursday, Feb. 28 at 4 p.m. Light refreshments with menu samples will be served following the ribbon cutting and tours of the restaurant will be offered.

"We're excited to bring Olive's Ti Pi to the Ticonderoga area," Harrison said. "Our goal is to provide quality food in a comfortable atmosphere for all to enjoy. We're happy to be in Ticonderoga and we look forward to meeting our new customers."

The first 30 people in attendance will also receive a certificate for a free medium 1-topping pizza.

In addition to the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce, representatives from the Town of Ticonderoga will participate in the event.

Olive's Ti Pi is a local Italian restaurant available for dine-in or take out. Menu items will include brick-style pizza, wings, burgers, salads, and Italian favorites. An Olive's Ti Pi Facebook page has been set up for grand opening week specials and promotions.

"We're extremely happy to see Ti Pi reopen under new ownership and with a new name," said Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce President Matthew Courtright. "Olivia and her team have been working very hard on renovations, cleaning, and menu planning. Her family is working with the community to make the Ticonderoga area an exceptional place."

"Share with them your thoughts and opinions as they move into the future."

Olivia said she'd love for people to come by and see their extensive renovations.

"It's all that Olive's Ti Pi has to offer," she said. "Hasta la pasta, as we say."

Courtright said he was getting out the word to "welcome them to the community as one of our newest business owners."

What Murray Wrought

from page 5

black flies, sought shelter from the incessant rain, grumbled, and what was worse, found themselves derided as "Murray's Fools."

But once "Murray's Rush" subsided, more lasting and more beneficial consequences of the author's best-selling book and lectures reveal themselves, Beach said.

According to Beach, Murray believed that the wilderness experience should be accessible to everyone, not just the wealthy "sports" who could afford to outfit month-long expeditions

that came stuffed with guides, cooks, provisions, guideboats and ordnance.

"Adventures in the Wilderness" invited the emerging middle-classes and especially women to explore the Adirondacks for themselves.

Although Murray himself preferred to move through the Adirondacks by guideboat and canoe, he more or less invented the modern concept of camping – hiking peaks with backpacks, cooking over open fires, sleeping in tents or lean-tos – the activity that he called "tramping."

Moreover, "Murray's Rush" begot an industry that is still

the mainstay of the Adirondack economy: tourism.

Within a few years of the publication of "Adventures in the Wilderness," those few hotels had grown to 200 hundred hotels. Today, there's thousands of them.

The Kelly Adirondack Center's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the publication of "Adventures in the Wilderness" remains on view through May 14.

The Kelly Adirondack Center is located at 897 St. David's Lane, Niskayuna, and is open 10 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. Call (518)388-7000 for information.

Two More Weekends of Winter Carnival

from page 20

Blais offered his thoughts Jan. 15 about this year's Winter Carnival.

"With all its activities and events presented by volunteers, Winter Carnival is a magnificent undertaking," he said. "It is one of the most popular events we've had in Lake George since I became mayor."

This year's schedule of events is as full as ever. All weekends of the Carnival feature motorsports, featuring either snowmobile motorcycle, ATV or sports car racing on ice.

This year, the ever-popular bonfire-on-the-beach at Shepard

Park will likely be burning all day, rather than only in late afternoon hours.

The array of children's activities is vast this year, featuring pony rides, make-your-own sundaes and s'mores on the beach, tie-dyeing T-shirts in the snow, face painting, and indoor craft sessions.

All ages will enjoy the Saturday evening fireworks, youth hockey games, chili, barbecue and chowder cook-offs and dog talent shows,

Sports and compact cars and specialty vehicles will be racing on the ice of Lake George on Saturday Feb. 23 and Sunday Feb. 24 — due to a record number of competitors registering

On Saturday Feb. 16 and Sunday Feb. 17, spectators will be witnessing shards of ice flying from underneath spinning wheels as motorcycles and ATVs career around courses on the ice atop Lake George. These races have been a crowd favorite over four decades.

Each weekend day, dozens of people will undoubtedly be charging into the frigid waters of Lake George in the polar plunge events, scheduled at 3 pm.

Sleigh and carriage rides, and helicopter excursions are to be offered on several if not all the weekends.

See www.lakegeorgewintercarnival.com for details.

Sales Tax Revenues Should Fund County Obligations

from page 7

Ryan Moore explained to the Supervisors at the January 16 workshop at the Municipal Center, Warren County adopted its sales tax measure in 1967 as a revenue stream to off-set the mandated share of Medicaid costs. The original intent was for the proceeds to be revenue in the County budget, thus reducing the county tax levy.

Horicon Supervisor Matt Simpson suggested that the Board re-instate that policy – use all sales tax revenue as county revenue. That is a reasonable and equitable solution, which will serve the

taxpayers well. It would result in the same total tax dollars, split between county and town taxes differently. Local budgeting would be more transparent, too.

In support of this proposal, I offer a few points. Sales tax is paid by consumers, not by businesses. Tourists and visitors comprise a large portion of the county's customer base. It should be noted that the discretionary income of consumers – resident or non-resident – is a critical factor in identifying who makes purchases that generate sales tax. The higher the person's income, the more likely that person is to purchase costlier cars, boats

and building supplies, which are taxable, while most daily needs like groceries are not subject to sales tax.

The federal government established income tax as a source of revenue to pay for its operation with an underlying theory that it would redistribute wealth. Some of the current county proposals are being framed as income equalizers. It would be inappropriate for the Warren County Board to adopt a plan that mixes tax policies. Sales tax is simply another revenue source – end of story.

Deanne Rehm
Bolton Landing

Ronald McDonald House Meeting Set for March 6

As Lake George Village Mayor Bob Blais has announced,

the Ottawa Street residence that housed the law offices of Howard Krantz, the Village attorney who died in 2015, will be converted "the only Ronald McDonald vacation home in the world." David McAvinney

of McAvinney Builders, LLC has offered to be project manager for the renovations.

The retreat, to be named "Krantz Cottage" will "provide a beautiful, natural setting where families with a seriously ill child can spend precious time together in a relaxed, natural environment a world away from the hospital," Ronald McDonald House Charities stated.

On March 6, at 8:30 am at the Holiday Inn, Blais will host a "Coffee with the Mayor" to discuss the project with anyone in the community who might be interested in volunteering, donating services or making a financial donation to

the project.

Staff and volunteers from Ronald McDonald House in Albany will make presentations, as will a child who has benefitted from the charity.

Anyone interested in assisting that cannot attend the meeting is asked to call 518-668-5771 x8 at the Lake George Village Hall.

Cabin Fever Fundraiser

The Bolton Free Library's annual Cabin Fever fundraiser will be held Feb. 24 at Frederick's restaurant, Bolton Landing. \$10 donations suggested.

DOUG WHOLEY'S EXCAVATING & DRAINAGE

IS YOUR DRIVEWAY OR LAWN LOOKING SAD?

CALL DOUG WHOLEY FOR DRIVEWAY REGRADING AND LANDSCAPING!

SERVING THE GREATER LAKE GEORGE AREA

- EXCAVATION
- DEMOLITION
- EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE
- SITE PREPARATION
- SEPTIC SYSTEMS
- PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

WE OFFER TOPSOIL
ORGANIC - 6% • Ph Level - 9%

(518) 644-2225

Reboutique Consignment

PREVIOUSLY LOVED WOMEN'S CLOTHING

NEW ITEMSEVERY DAY!

BAGS • JEWELRY
SHOES • CLOTHING

"Sell what you have, buy what you crave."

OPEN DAILY MON - SAT
2199 STATE ROUTE 9, LAKE GEORGE, NY
DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM LAKE GEORGE FORUM
(518) 668-5059

A Totally Wired LG Village for the 21st Century

from page 3

in the village.

"You could have connected work stations in your public works trucks" he said, suggesting the village consider multiple discrete networks, one for village employees, another for the public, and a third for businesses.

In introducing Humiston, village Mayor Robert Blais said that wi-fi through the village would "move Lake George into the 21st century," by attaining "Smart City" status.

With the increasing popularity of live-streaming experiences to social media, Humiston said, robust connectivity is becoming ever-more vital.

Humiston said that village-wide wi-fi would attract and retain more tourists by enhancing their experience while vacationing or attending events or concerts.

"So many people are now taking pictures and videos of their experiences and posting them live, sharing them with their friends," he said, noting that the village could advertise its wi-fi connectivity to boost tourism.

Village trustee John Root noted that foreign students and tourists, in an effort to stay connected, are now gathering in clusters around businesses providing wi-fi.

Public safety could be enhanced by a wi-fi network throughout the village, Humiston said. Such connectivity would allow video cameras be installed to monitor and control traffic flow, as well as deter and detect crime, he said. Public

safety and emergency messages could be broadcast to residents and visitors across the village to their smartphones, and be posted on message boards, he said.

Also, public wi-fi could enable businesses to send visitors special offers to their smartphones as they enter the village, he said. With smart wi-fi controlled LED street lighting, utility costs could be cut as much as one-half, he said.

Humiston said that such public wi-fi would be useful as an economic development tool. He said that the local chamber of commerce could "heat-map" the time and location of people circulating in the village, to determine what activities are popular and when the peak times are.

"Heat-mapping could tell you where people are spending most of their time in the village," he said.

Humiston said that the village could charge visitors to be connected, which would provide a new revenue source for local government. He said that cruise ships are now charging up to \$250 for connectivity.

Village trustee Ray Perry said he was looking into grants that might pay for installation of public wi-fi through the village.

Blais said that state law would likely require the installation of such infrastructure to be put out to bid.

"In the meantime, the board invited Humiston to survey the village's topography to determine where wireless transmitters should be located to provide village-wide wi-fi."

WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS
news@lakegeorgemirror.com