

Potsdam College Would Lose Eight Positions In Carey's Budget

BY JIM KENNEDY
ALBANY—Gov. Hugh Carey's \$13.8 billion state budget proposal unveiled here Monday calls for the elimination of the St. Lawrence-Eastern Ontario Commission, the agency which was supposed to carry out the state's program for preserving the resources of the St. Lawrence River and the eastern Lake Ontario region.

The elimination of the commission's \$300,000 appropriation was the biggest surprise for the North Country in the governor's proposal.

Although local legislative leaders, like state Senator H. Douglas Barclay, are relatively confident that the commission can be restored to the budget before it is passed by the legislature later this

spring, the elimination of the commission in the executive proposal may cause some restructuring and reductions in the staffing of the local agency, headquartered in Watertown.

The commission is currently chaired by former St. Lawrence County Legislator Ernest LaBaff. The unit was formerly chaired by Charles W. Kelly of Ogdensburg.

The governor's budget also calls for cuts in appropriations to the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center and a staffing cut at the State University College at Potsdam.

In a hopeful sign, the document contains a reappropriation of a revolving \$1 million fund for use by the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority to improve its commercial and in-

dustrial park sites.

The budget also calls for a reduction of 2 percent in unrestricted aid to localities, but increases aid to the state's school districts by \$158 million over the current fiscal year. Just how St. Lawrence County school districts will be affected by the proposal was uncertain Tuesday.

Gov. Carey's school aid proposal is seen as a temporary one, pending "comprehensive recommendations" for changes in the operating formula later this legislative year.

St. Lawrence-Eastern Ontario No other proposal in the Governor's budget was more shocking to local officials than the elimination of the St. Lawrence-Eastern Ontario Commission. Created in 1969, the com-

mission had been charged with the duty of protecting and developing the scenic ecological, recreational and commercial resources of the river and the lake.

The governor's budget notes that over the years, the purposes and programs which led to the commission's creation have been incorporated into other agencies, "reflecting a more comprehensive statewide response to the management and coordination of environmental regulatory responsibilities and programs."

The budget goes on to point out that many of the functions of the local commission have been incorporated into the regular operations of the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Department of State.

DEC has been assigned such functions as Environmental Quality Review, oil spill contingency planning, and review of discharges to water, while the Department of State is responsible for implementing the state's Coastal Zone Management program and assisting communities in local land use planning efforts.

The budget states that other functions of the local commission, like economic and recreational development, can be assumed by the Department of Commerce and the Office of Parks and Recreation.

With its functions assumed by other statewide agencies, the governor concludes that the local commission is no longer needed and therefore he includes no state appropriation for the office in his budget.

Local Control Lost
But it is the assumption of duties by statewide agencies that has local and some state officials worried about the future of such programs as the Coastal Zone Management plan.

The commission has been deeply involved in the development of local land use plans along the river and the lake and has attempted to step up those efforts under the Coastal Zone plan in an effort to insure that the program was responsive to local needs.

Officials close to the program told The Journal here Monday that necessary local input into the program may be lost in northern New York if the commission is eliminated.

The elimination of the commission may also revive old rivalries between

DEC and the Department of State, which have competed in the past for control of the Coastal Zone program.

State Sen. Barclay, the leading force behind the creation of the commission, indicated Monday that some trade-offs in the legislature could restore the commission by the time the final budget is approved April 1.

State Colleges
In the area of higher education, Potsdam State is the hardest hit by the budget proposal. The Potsdam College would gain some \$843,800 in appropriations but lose a total of eight positions.

The budget calls for the deletion of five faculty, one staff, and two support positions.

Total appropriations to the college are listed at over \$16 million.

At SUCP, initial base budget figure for 79-80 was \$14,784,200. Adjusted base budget figure for same was \$15,440,400.

Canton ATC fares slightly better, with no loss of employment and an increase of \$318,400 in appropriations to a total of

over \$7 million. ATC would gain two staff positions according to the budget.

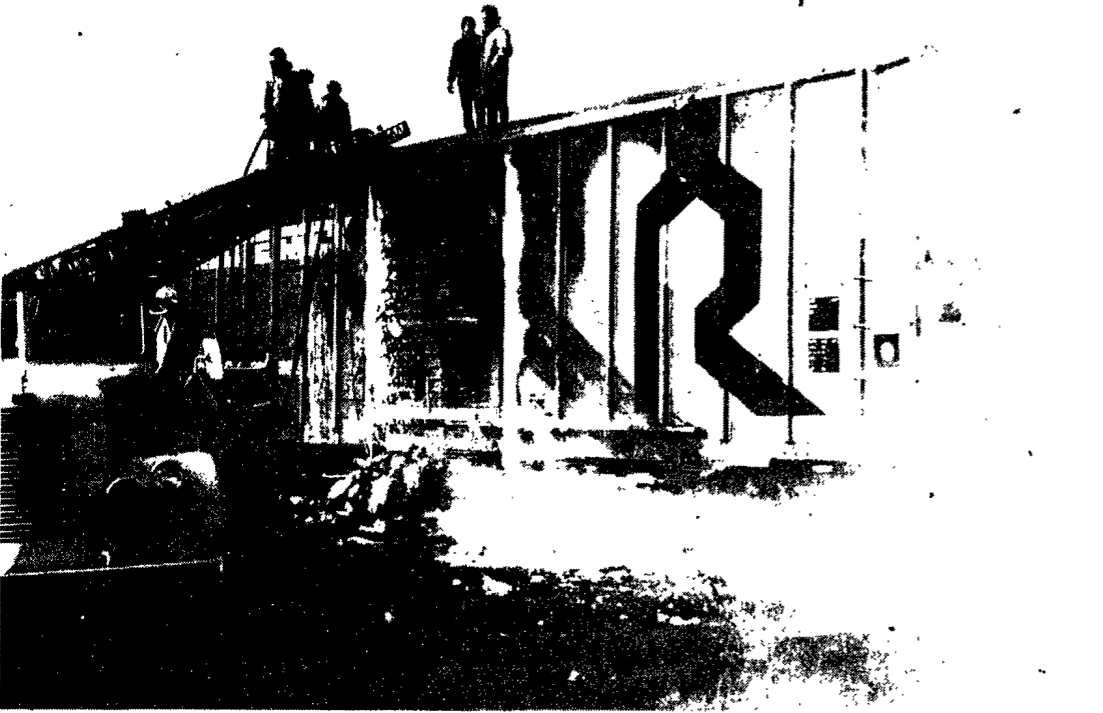
In the Village of Potsdam, State Revenue Sharing money goes into the general fund, according to Village Treasurer Mary Welch.

A total of \$120,000 in Revenue Sharing money (identified in the budget as state per capita aid) was appropriated in the village's 1979-1980 budget, Welch said.

Because the village underestimated, by some \$20,000, the amount of State Revenue Sharing money it would receive, Welch said that Governor Carey's suggested two percent cutback in revenue sharing would have no effect on the village in this budget year.

The village has received two revenue sharing payments thus far, of \$38,583, with two more payments expected before the end of the current state fiscal year.

General fund monies go for salaries and expenses for all village operations except the water treatment and sewage plants. The total village budget for 1979-1980 is \$3,427,306.



CONRAIL BOXCAR BURNS — Firefighters from Potsdam and Norwood used some 75 gallons of foam to extinguish a blaze in a ConRail boxcar on the tracks near Depot Street in Norwood Friday morning. ConRail employees reported the

fire at 9:20 a.m. and firefighters were still on the scene at 12:15 p.m. The car, which was loaded with paper, was reported to be smoldering later Friday afternoon. State Police are investigating the incident. (Betsy Baker photo)

Ice Carnival Will Begin Next Week

For the second year in a row, the Potsdam community will take part in the annual college ice carnival, scheduled from Jan. 30 to Feb. 7.

Increased support from the local chamber of commerce, combined with the variety of activities planned by the students who will be celebrating their 50th annual affair, promise to make the week that precedes the Winter Olympics a true winter festival in Potsdam.

The theme for this year's winter celebration will be "City Sidewalks." If the weather cooperates, the carnival should be one of the most festive ever, with more than 30 snow sculptures planned as well as oil cloth paintings and store window designs. Community groups are being invited to take part in these efforts.

Additionally, the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce will conduct a major promotional effort, similar in scope to the summer sidewalk sales, that will conclude with a drawing for an Olympic tour package for two worth \$150.

A college dance at Potsdam College Jan. 30 will lead off the carnival events. Then on Friday, Feb. 1, the carnival is expected to move into high gear. That evening, from 4 to 7 p.m., the chamber of commerce will sponsor sleigh rides in Ives Park. Also that evening the Crane School of Music Band, the musicians

of the band playing at the Winter Olympic Games, will perform for the public in the park. Plans are underway for food and beverage concessions to be operated during that time.

The Cavalcade, which consists of various one-act plays and skits, will be presented Feb. 1 and 2.

Parade
The Ice Carnival Parade will be held in downtown Potsdam on Sunday, Feb. 3. The route will cover parts of both campuses as well as the Market Street business district. Public or private groups are invited to enter floats in the parade.

An ice skating competition will be held at Clarkson's Walker Arena on Thursday, Feb. 5. A pie eating and beer chugging contest will take place Wednesday, Feb. 6 at the Whiskey One

tavern on Market Street. A concert featuring the Atlanta Rhythm Section will be held at Clarkson's Alumni Gym on Thursday, Feb. 7.

Friday, Feb. 8 is the Ice Carnival Hockey Game. This year traditional Empire Division rivals Clarkson and RPI will square off in what promises to be an exciting matchup.

Saturday, Feb. 9 will see a flurry of activities as the winter festival week comes to a close. There will be an oldtimers hockey game at Pine Street Arena featuring the Potsdam Potbellies playing an as-yet-to-be-named opponent.

Saturday will also be the day of the sixth annual Potsdam Langlauf cross-country ski race, open to persons of all ages and abilities on the ski trails behind the Clarkson Science Center off Clarkson Avenue. All race proceeds in excess of expenses will be donated to the Heart Association of Northern New York. The distance events will be 3, 5, 10 and 15 kilometers. The entry fee is \$1 for children under 11 years and \$3 for all others with a \$8 family maximum. Registration deadline is 10:30 a.m. of the race day. Race time is 11 a.m. Awards will be made to the first, second and third places in each race class. For further information contact, Potsdam Langlauf, 10 Leroy St., 265-9290. The race will be run unless there is no snow on the course on race day.

The day will close with the Ice Carnival Ball, at which time the Carnival King and Queen will be chosen. Still to be announced are the dates for the volleyball and fowl shooting competitions at Potsdam College.

Regarding the carnival theme, the choice of cities is both interesting and diverse and should make for some fascinating displays. American cities include Hollywood, Las Vegas, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco. On the international scene, groups will portray such cities as Moscow, London, Rome and Cairo. Several mythical cities will also be represented, such as Camelot and Shangri-La. And of course there will be Potsdam.

Frats, Sororities In Potsdam Pay Property Taxes

BY BETSY BAKER
Fraternities and sororities at SUNY Potsdam and Clarkson College contribute some \$12,000 annually to the local economy in the form of property taxes on their houses. The 30 fraternity and sorority houses reflect a total assessment of approximately \$200,000.

Assessments range from a high of \$31,000 to \$7,600; property taxes range from \$1,829 to \$401.20, according to the village tax rolls, which are computed on a tax rate of \$29 per \$1,000 of assessed value for 1979-80.

Unlike some fraternity dwellings at St. Lawrence University in Canton, which are tax exempt, all of the fraternity and sorority houses at the two Potsdam colleges are taxed.

Questions have been raised recently in Canton concerning houses owned by St. Lawrence and rented to faculty members and buildings owned by the university and lived in by fraternity and sorority members. A spokesman for

the university has been quoted as calling these student dwellings "residence halls."

Canton resident Mildred Whalen has questioned the legality of property tax exemptions for both the faculty housing and the fraternity and sorority houses owned by the university.

Ms. Whalen has cited a legal opinion from the New York State Board of Equalization and Assessment which indicates that faculty housing as well as fraternities and sororities are taxable real property.

Canton Mayor Ruth Blankman is presently checking the tax status of university-owned exempt properties; she is expected to be assisted in February by a student intern from St. Lawrence.

Greeks Own Houses
In Potsdam, SUNY Potsdam and Clarkson College do not own fraternity or sorority houses. According to Daniel Hurley, Dean of Student Life at SUNY

Potsdam, five of that college's sororities and two of its fraternities own houses.

The houses are owned by the organizations themselves, according to Dean Hurley, although the faculty-student association may have assisted by co-signing the mortgage for some of the properties, he said.

Agonian, Alpha Delta, Omega, Phi Kappa and Zeta Sororities own houses, and Psi Phi and Delta Kappa Theta fraternities also own houses, Hurley said. A third fraternity, Prometheus, does not own a house; a fourth, Phi Kappa Sigma, a national fraternity with members from both colleges, is presently looking for a house to buy.

Sigma Sigma Sigma service sorority and the professional music societies Phi Mu Alpha and Sigma Alpha and Sigma Alpha Iota do not own houses, Hurley said.

Clarkson College has 13 fraternities, owned by alumni corporations or local corporations, according to Donald

Dangremond of the college's student life office.

Alpha Chi Rho, Alpha Epsilon Pi, Beta Tau, Delta Sigma Phi, Delta Upsilon, Omicron Pi Omicron, Sigma Delta, Tau Delta Kappa, Tau Epsilon Phi, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Theta Chi, Theta Xi and Zeta Nu own houses.

Clarkson's one sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma, does not own a house, although several members of that organization are living temporarily in a house at 116 Main St.

Neither college owns faculty housing at the present time. Clarkson alone time had faculty housing located off Clarkson Avenue, but students now reside in those apartment, which are tax exempt, college sources said.

Both colleges own properties that are exempt from property tax, in addition to classroom and other campus buildings and the homes of the colleges' presidents.

SUNY Potsdam owns a parcel of land on Main Street, once intended as the site of a new campus school. The land is presently zoned for a school; once it has been rezoned to residential use it can be sold by sealed bid, according to Robert Burns, Director of Physical Environment at the college.

Once the Main Street property is sold it will go back on the tax rolls, Burns said. The college also owns a lot at 6 Leroy St. That property is to be sold by sealed bid once clear title to the land has been established, and that property will also go back on the tax rolls once it has been sold.

SUNY Potsdam owns the building on Main Street which presently houses the campus school. Negotiations are underway with Clarkson for disposition of that building once the campus school has been moved onto the SUNY Potsdam Pierpont Avenue campus later this year.

The college's Star Lake Camp, owned by Potsdam Auxiliary and College Educational Services, Inc. (PACES) is also exempt from property tax.

Clarkson College owns several tax exempt houses on Main Street adjacent to the downtown campus classroom buildings. The Craig house and the Goodenough house are student housing; the Anton house accommodates students from the Clarkson School.

Contribute to Community

Both colleges also make annual contributions to the community. SUNY Potsdam, through PACES, has for the past several years contributed \$500 annually to each the Potsdam Volunteer Fire Department and the Potsdam Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Last year Clarkson contributed \$10,000 toward the purchase of the village's ladder fire truck. This year the \$10,000 contribution is unrestricted, according to Michael Terpin, director of news services. The college also contributes \$2,500 annually to each the Town of Potsdam and the Potsdam Central School District.

Prior to last year the college had contributed approximately \$300-400 per year in lieu of the amount of taxes on its exempt Main Street houses, Terpin said. In a recent press release St. Lawrence stated that the university makes voluntary contributions totalling \$17,670 to the Canton village, town and school district on its tax exempt faculty-staff housing.

LeForestier Chosen HS Principal; Board Approves Teacher Contract

Wilford "Bill" LeForestier, the new principal for Potsdam High School, is expected to arrive in Potsdam this Friday to begin preparations for his move to the community and new job.

LeForestier's appointment, made Tuesday night by the Potsdam School Board, ends a three-month search for a principal. The search involved participation from the public as well as from school administration and staff. LeForestier, currently a teacher and administrator at the Troy, N.Y. school system, will begin his \$24,000 a year job in Potsdam in Mid-February.

The school board also approved a two-year contract with the Potsdam Teachers' Association and set a date for a public meeting to vote on a proposition to purchase five new school buses.

LeForestier was one of two finalists for the job of principal that was left vacant when Rene Bouchard left the district last fall to become Superintendent of Schools in the Alfred-Almond Central School District downstate. In the meantime the Potsdam District has had two interim principals, first Richard Farrell and now William Stephenson, both retired from the administration of Massena High School.

The new principal has spent the past 10 years as a Social Studies teacher while working as curriculum coordinator in his subject area for the 2,100-student school. He has also been active in the administrative sector of Troy High School as the summer school principal.

A graduate of Assumption College in Worcester, Mass., where he received his bachelor's degree in Modern American History with minors in Philosophy and Psychology, LeForestier received his master's degree in public administration at State University College in Albany. He is presently a candidate for a master's degree in Modern American History.

The teacher's contract will be ef-

fective July 1. It calls for a maximum increase to the district of 8 percent, although the actual increase is expected to be somewhat less than that.

Tenure
Many of the school board's decisions Tuesday night were made in a lengthy executive session that was closed to the public. Included in the executive session were the principal appointment, the approval of a funding resolution on the teachers' contract and tenure for several staff members.

Tenure status was granted for Barbara Morrison, administration; Lorraine Ford and Kathryn Londraville, elementary teaching; and Avalon Wright, reading teaching. A recommendation concerning tenure for Henry Kriescher was tabled in advisory vote until February. Susan Stacy and Joan Edzwald were granted permission to finish the year on unpaid maternity leaves in other executive action.

Public Will Vote

On Bus Plan
One important decision made during the public section of Tuesday night's meeting was the establishment of April 16 as the date for public voting on a bus purchase plan. In setting their regular monthly meeting for April 15, the board decided to hold a district meeting preceding the April gathering, with the district meeting being adjourned until the following day when the polls would be opened. Made up of three different options the bus plan calls for the addition of five vehicles for the 1980-81 fleet, with a two vehicle per year replacement scheme needed throughout the 80s. Broken down, the three proposals read as follows:
—Purchase of six buses in the 1980-81 school year, three buses in 1981-82 and 1982-83, with a net three-year impact of \$5,93-\$1,000. (assessed value).
—Bonds issued at 8 percent to purchase buses over three years, plus three additional buses per year, with a

net three-year impact of \$6.27-\$1,000 (assessed value).

Purchase two buses 1980-81, bonds for three buses over three years, contract one bus, with a net tax impact of \$4.93-\$1,000.

In-School Suspension Reviewed
Principal Ken Daniels gave the board and some 20 persons in attendance a short look at the in-school suspension program currently being used in the A.A. Kingston Middle School. Showing a chart for the months September through October that compared figures from 1978 and 1979, Daniels said that the program has been working well, and that the parents of children involved with this form of discipline have been in favor of its continuation.

Aggressiveness, fighting, and foul language were listed as the most prevalent causes of suspension by Daniels, who disclosed his total programs expenditures at \$312 to date. He recommended a meeting with the program committee later this year to evaluate the current program and to establish guidelines for the future of in-school suspension at the Middle School.

Math aide Thomas Sawyer and custodial worker Gene Regan were both approved in other board business, as was the appointment of Don Chubboff as an English teacher for the balance of the year to take the place of Bev Landy, who is on a leave of absence. During his report to the board, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carlos Gutierrez praised the efforts of Joe Began in the field of computers at Potsdam Central, and mentioned the recent announcement that PCS will be able to get a computer technician from CETA for their computer equipment.

March 7 and 8 were listed as the dates for the high school performance of "Little Mary Sunshine," with Jan. 29 being set for the next school board committee meetings, and Feb. 5 and 26 designated as action meetings for the month of February.

Potsdam Was Only Community To Top United Way Goal

Potsdam, with a goal of \$32,000 for this year's United Way drive, has again topped 100 percent of the goal.

With one and a half weeks to go in the wrapup of the campaign, campaign chairpersons Enid Ablowitz and Bill Solomon have announced that they had reached \$32,769.99.

The one outstanding group of contributors during the current campaign was Potsdam Paper Corporation, according to United Way officials. They and their employees contributed \$13,075, an increase of over 100 percent.

Many other companies, small businesses and individuals in Potsdam contributed more than last year. Potsdam State University had a \$1,200 increase, giving \$9,911.20 this year as compared to \$8,734.20 in 1978.

Ms. Ablowitz and Solomon congratulated all the workers and contributors their many volunteer hours and for being so generous.

Again this year the Community Trophy will be awarded Potsdam at the annual dinner in April.

Also, in a report from the United Way office, Don Ballou, executive director, stated that the United Way had reached

90 percent of its goal with \$368,052 raised. The campaign closed last year with \$366,800 raised.

Milk Tank Spills In Road

A bulk milk tank fell off the back of a 10-wheeled truck as it turned a corner in Potsdam late Monday night, spilling an estimated 3,000 gallons of milk in front of the fire station on Main Street. One of the workmen who participated in a nearly two-hour cleanup operation was injured, police said.

The workman, Michael Martin, 25, Hannawa Falls, was listed in satisfactory condition Tuesday morning by authorities at Canton-Potsdam Hospital. Police said Martin was hurt when a large hook and block assembly that was used to lift the milk tank fell about five feet and struck him in the back. Martin is an employee of ConQuip Corporation, a local heavy hauling firm that was called to remove the tank from the roadway, police said.

The truck, owned by Ronald Winters, Ogdensburg, was being driven by Alton R. Nugent, 30, Ogdensburg. According to police, Nugent was making a left turn from Main Street onto Park Street when the single-body truck tipped to the side. The bulk milk tank apparently broke free and rolled to a stop in the roadway. When the tank fell off the truck it remained upright, police said. Police said they believed that the bolts holding the tank snapped.

According to police, the tank was not ruptured but ports were opened and the milk flowed out onto the street in the freezing temperatures. The Potsdam fire department was called to wash the milk from the roadway and the village highway crew was called to salt and sand the residue. The volunteer rescue squad was also on hand.

Police said that an ice buildup had to be scraped from the roadway. No tickets were issued in the incident, they said.

Plans On Agenda

Area residents may soon be able to indulge their cravings for Mexican food at a restaurant in Potsdam. At its regular meeting Jan. 22 (tonight) the Potsdam Village Planning Board will consider a site plan review and special permit request from Kelly Dempsey and Richard Schmitt to establish a Tijuana Taco Restaurant at 17 Market St., formerly the site of the Surprise Store.

Also on the agenda is a recommendation to the Village Board of Trustees from the planning board on the zoning of Elm Street. Phi Kappa Sigma, a national fraternity that is seeking to buy a house, had approached the planning board last November with a request for a zoning change on Elm Street to allow them to buy a house at 62 Elm St.