

LAST WEEK'S WEATHER

	Hi	Lo	Pcp
Tues.	52	43	.05 rn
Wed.	53	48	.37 rn
Thurs.	50	18	Tr sn
Fri.	38	25	1.2 sn
Sat.	25	9	Tr sn
Sun.	33	9	.05 rn
Mon.	36	30	.35 rn

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A PARK NEWSPAPER

County approves 1983 budget. See stories this week.

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25 CENTS

Hamilton, Division Streets Are New Rehab Target Area

BY BETSY BAKER
A new phase of Potsdam's federally funded housing rehabilitation program — this one dealing with properties owned by absentee landlords — will begin shortly with the approval of a rehab target area on Hamilton and Division streets.

Written approval for a \$120,000 rehab project in the target area has been received from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), according to Robert Juravich, director of HUD programs for the village.

Residents of the area had petitioned the village board last year to be included in the rehab program, saying that the quality of the neighborhood is declining because rental properties owned by absentee landlords are in need of repairs.

Juravich said Monday that the housing rehab project, which is geared toward rental properties, will have three parts.

First, the village expects to acquire properties at 1 and 3 Hamilton St. for rehabilitation and possible resale. One of the houses might be moved to another village-owned lot for resale, Juravich said.

Funds returned to the village's rehab program from the resale of other rehabilitated houses could be used for moving expenses, according to Juravich.

Second, curb, sidewalk and storm drain work will be done on Hamilton and Division streets, to bring that area into conformity with similar work done earlier under the village's Urban Renewal program.

Finally, a grant for one-third of the cost of necessary rehab work will be offered to absentee landlords. The landlords must pick up two-thirds of the tab, at an interest rate of approximately nine percent.

Before granting its approval for the new target area, the village board had sought a guarantee that at least 75 percent of the absentee landlords would be interested in such a program.

Juravich said his office has met that requirement, with firm commitments and bank approvals from all but one of the absentee landlords of properties needing rehabilitation.

Juravich said his office has received "good cooperation" from the landlords.

The approximately \$120,000 in federal funds for the project will come from Small Cities funds for fiscal year 1980, Juravich said.

The village had budgeted larger sums for acquisition and demolition of blighted properties on Riverside Drive and other locations than was used in that fiscal year, he said.

The project will be "treated as a preservation project," Juravich said, with technical assistance on color schemes and other matters provided

by preservation architect Randy Crawford of Syracuse.

The project should be completed by the summer of 1983.

Downtown Improvements
Construction is expected to begin shortly on a second story addition to the Clements Building, 16-18 Market St., as part of the village's federally funded downtown improvement program in the Market Street Historic District.

Now the home of ASC/NORTECH, a computer firm, the building's planned second floor will house a "training lab," where seminars for prospective buyers of computers will be held.

Space for sales and repairs will also be included.

Design and facade work for the addition was done by the preservation architecture firm of Crawford and Stearns, Syracuse.

A low-cost federal loan is part of the financing package for the renovations.

The Arlington Hotel, The Marketplace, Maxfield's restaurant, the Hewison building, Barstow's Furniture and Eugene Earle Jeweler are among the other downtown buildings which have participated in the improvement program.

\$535,000 Due
The village will receive \$535,000 in CD funds in fiscal 1982 for downtown improvement, housing rehabilitation and related projects, with an additional \$535,000 to be received in fiscal 1983.

After that, the future of Community Development activities is uncertain, and will depend in part on how much progress can be made with fiscal 1982-83 monies, Juravich said.

He noted that the HUD-funded Small Cities program, through which the village has received funds since 1976, is up for re-authorization by Congress in fiscal 1984.

While it is too early to predict how the program will fare in Congress, Juravich said that, nationwide, the Small Cities program has been both popular and effective.

Other Plans
In addition to the downtown improvements, other CD-financed projects will continue as well, including the housing rehabilitation program, acquisition and resale of properties and public improvements, Juravich said.

On Monday Juravich received word that the Hamilton/Division Street area of the village has been approved as a target area for CD funds.

Residents of the area had petitioned the village last year to have their neighborhood declared a target area, thereby making property owners eligible for federal rehabilitation assistance.

With fiscal 1982-83 monies, curbing, sidewalk and paving will be completed on Depot Street, public improvements (storm sewers, curbing and sidewalks) will be made to Swan, Canal, Maynard and Elderkin streets, as well as to Raymond and Liberty streets, following completion of the village's new water treatment plant.

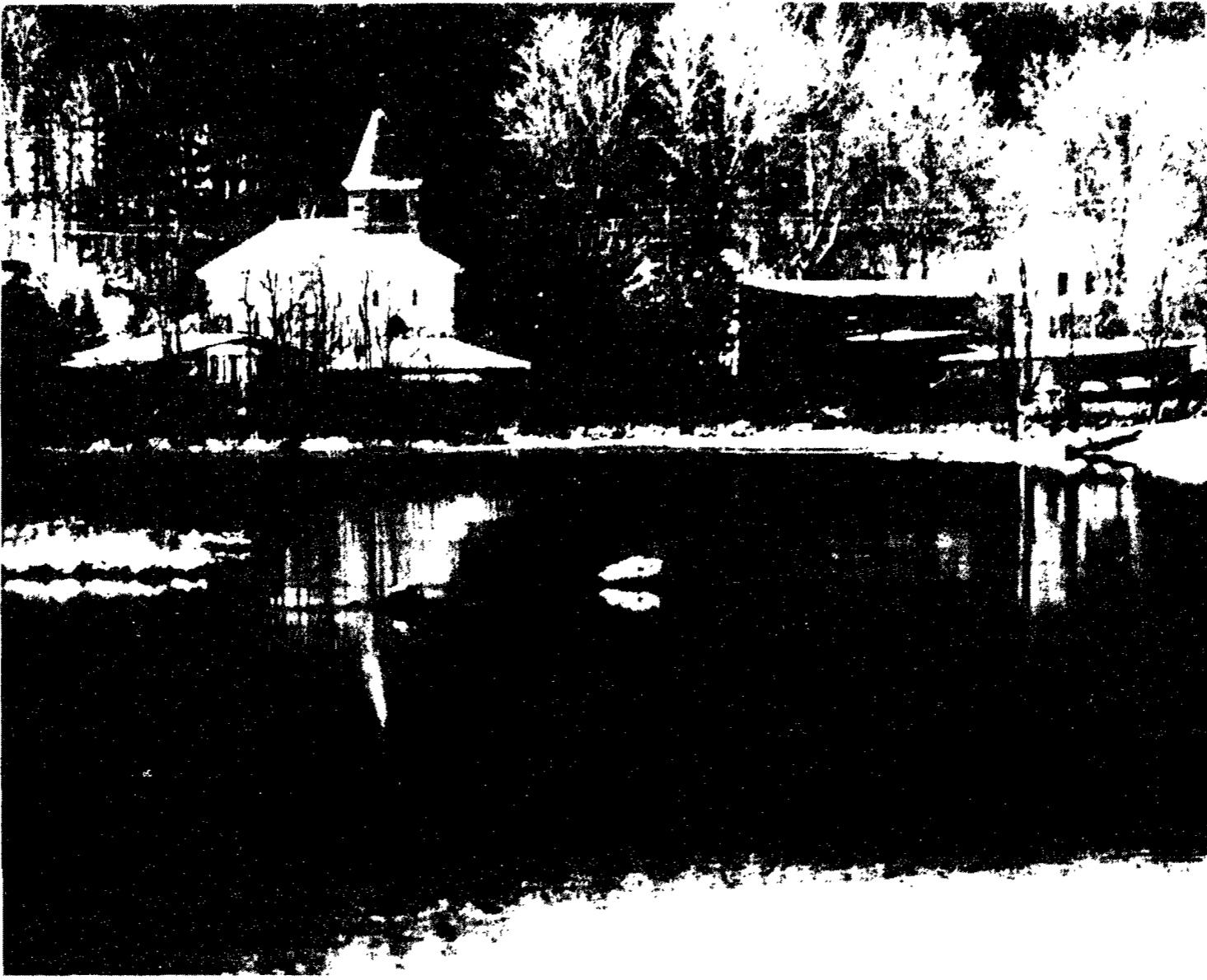
The village plans to acquire five pieces of property on Swan Street, some 2 1/2 acres, to be offered for sale as a block which would support 40 to 50 apartment units, Juravich said.

And there are several properties on Maynard, Canal and Elderkin streets which still might be acquired, he said.

Rehabilitated homes on Elderkin and Larnard streets have been sold with a third home on Pine Street still for sale.

The housing rehabilitation program, which began in 1977 with a west Market Street target area, still has funds available for assistance, according to Juravich.

Under the program, eligible persons may receive grants or loans for renovations to their homes. Some \$40,000 to \$50,000 is available for rehab work, and about \$20,000 to \$30,000 is coming back into the program through loan repayments, he said.



WINTER AFTERNOON — As the afternoon wanes, shadows lengthen along the river. In this view of the Racquette River in Colton, the former St.

Patrick's Church, now a private home, is reflected in the chill waters. (Betsy Baker photo)

4.6% Tax Increase

County Approves \$46.4 Million Budget For 1983

BY JIM REAGEN
CANTON — St. Lawrence County's legislators beat back several efforts to restore funds to county departments Monday night, adopting a \$46.4 million budget that calls for a 4.6 percent tax increase.

Numerous legislators waged fights to restore cuts to the Sheriff's Department, Social Services Department, and to raise appropriations for town highways, and even the county fair.

But Nicholas Viskovich of Massena, chairman of the powerful Finance Committee, warned legislators that if they wanted to add items to the budget, they would have to face up to the need to increase property taxes even more.

"You can add what ever you want, but you've got to make a decision," Viskovich said. "If you want it, you've got to pay for it."

Viskovich told members that with more than 1,000 people in Massena's industries laid off, county government would also have to make sacrifices.

But Norwood Legislator Ernest LaBaff reminded the legislators that the county's budget called for laying off eight people in the Social Services Department, two deputies, and a motor vehicle.

LaBaff Wanted Compassion
Repeatedly, LaBaff called on the legislature to show "compassion" for its work force, and to lead the way in the county in keeping people employed.

LaBaff predicted that restoring all the cuts would only raise property taxes by about 2 percent.

After the legislature rebuffed

restoring funds, LaBaff, Stanley Morrill of DeKalb Junction and Donald Smith of Waddington were the lone dissenters in opposing the budget.

But the 18 to 3 vote passing the budget came only after several legislators launched what appeared to be 11th hour ploys to stave off the layoffs or decrease the proposed tax levy.

Donald Smith of Waddington asked legislators to reduce the tax levy by cutting the contingency fund or by taking funds out of the surplus.

Smith said the legislators had placed too much money in the contingency fund.

But County Budget Officer F. Gerard Reagen reminded legislators that the contingency fund included money for salary increases for the Civil Service Employees Association, the Deputy Sheriff's Association and department heads.

Reagen said the salary negotiations are still in progress and funds had been set aside in the contingency fund to pay for those costs. He also warned legislators that the board could increase its surplus estimate at its peril, because the county might end up with deficit financing if revenues did not equal estimates.

Thompson Bothered
Robert Thompson of Lisbon urged legislators to consider forgetting about salary increases for employees for a year to save the jobs of those who are being laid off.

"I don't agree with this philosophy that there's nothing wrong with layoffs," Thompson said. "It bothers me that we're going to chop heads."

"I wish there was something we could do," said Thompson, a member of the Finance Committee that approved all the budget cuts.

Thompson's suggestion appeared to shock most legislators. Allen Rishe of Ogdensburg said the negotiations between the county and the employees union have been continuing for a few months.

For the county to try to cut off the prospect of a salary increase, or to cut its size, would lay the county open to a charge of negotiating in bad faith with the employees.

LaBaff repeated his plea for the legislators to keep its employees and not "panic and spread the disease of layoffs."

"Layoff is not just a word, it's a family tragedy," LaBaff said.

Smith To Run?
NORWOOD — Norwood's often controversial mayor, Willard Smith, may seek re-election to another term.

Mayor Smith said today he expects to issue a statement on his political future later in the week, possibly next Monday.

Smith, while not officially stating that he would run for a second term, sported two re-election buttons, one stating "I'm For The Mayor." He had earlier said he would not seek re-election.

"Nobody in this room is unemployed or they'd be a little bit more compassionate."

"It makes me sick that we're going to take away services from handicapped children," LaBaff said. "I'm not going to vote for this budget."

Legislature Chairman Augustus Marscher reminded legislators that a few years back the board had laid off 10 foresters but no one talked then about "compassion" for those employees.

Marscher said he and other county officials have already begun taking steps to try to transfer employees targeted for layoffs into other positions that open from transfers, resignations and retirements.

Marscher said no one wants to lay off employees, and he has already asked the personnel office to begin looking for equivalent positions in county government that the employees could apply for.

Marscher said the same method had been used for the foresters and most had been picked up in other departments, including the buildings and grounds department.

After the meeting, Marscher and other legislative leaders appeared angry at what some called "public posturing" by legislators.

Speed Up Process

J. Albert Wright, town supervisor of Waddington, and secretary of the town supervisors association, said that the new policy would just speed up the process of town governments taking sales tax payments earlier instead of leaving it for the county to invest.

By the end of next year, Wright said, all town governments will follow the policy, meaning that the county will not have the \$110,000 in interest that the legislature took away last night.

But Monday night's compromise left the legislature with the funds for this year's budget, allowing them to stave off a bigger tax increase than the 4.6 percent increase already projected, while satisfying the politically powerful town governments.

The compromise was not reached without a fight.

Transportation Committee Chairman Smith's proposal ran into stiff opposition from critics, led by Hamilton Legislator Allen Dunham.

Dunham urged that the tax increase be raised to pay for the hike for the townships, calling Smith's proposal just "taking the money out of one pocket and putting it in the other."

Dunham's effort to let the towns keep the interest on the sales tax payments, plus provide them with a raise for snow plowing from \$1,000 a mile to \$1,200 a mile, failed on a 7 to 14 vote.

Town governments are providing a service to the county, Dunham said, and their costs have increased, justifying an increase for plowing county roads.

While critics charged that legislators were "just taking money from one pocket of the towns and putting it in the other," town supervisors left the meeting saying they were satisfied.

Greco's Bombshell
But Star Lake legislator Ralph Greco dropped a bombshell when he unveiled a report he drew up showing that having the county tax levy pay for the snow plowing actually penalizes 12 townships, particularly the major communities.

Greco said the snow plowing will eventually come out of the tax levy which penalizes towns and the city of Ogdensburg which have a large percentage of taxable property within their borders.

The report Greco distributed to legislators showed a town by town breakdown, revealing the share of the local levy paid by each township. It showed how much the towns would receive from legislator Donald Smith's proposal as well as how much their taxpayers would actually pay.

Greco obtained statistics showing the percentage of the county tax levy contributed from each township, comparing how much money that equaled with the amount the towns would receive from the increase.

Greco's report, which county Budget Officer F. Gerard Reagen confirmed as accurate, showed that the following municipalities lose money: Clifton, Colton, Fine, Gouverneur, Hopkinton, Ogdensburg, Massena, Morrisstown, Norfolk, Parishville, Pierceland, and Potsdam.

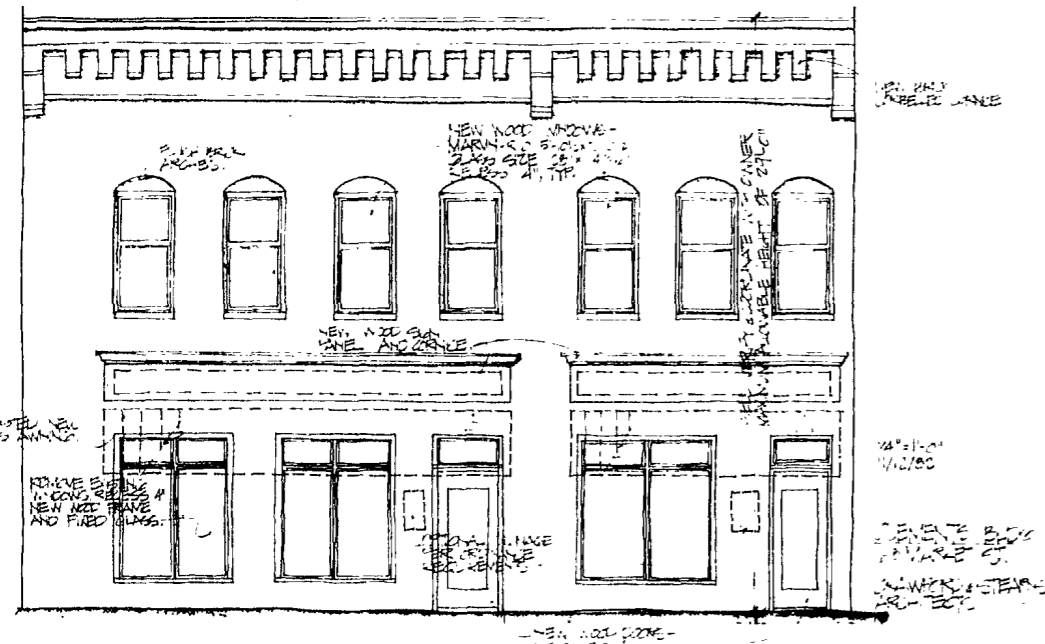
Hospital Raises \$53,105 In Drive

Canton-Potsdam Hospital's Improvement Fund Drive has raised a total of \$53,105, far exceeding last year's total of \$17,000, and has met its \$12,000 challenge, according to hospital spokesman Clifford Westerling.

The fund provides for medical equipment and special services. This year's chairman was William Solomon.

Westerling said the hospital exceeded the \$12,000 needed to match a challenge from 12 businesses and individuals who pledged \$1,000 each to the drive if the hospital raised \$12,000.

A total of 1,083 gifts were received; last year's total was 200. This year 150 people donated \$100 or more, Westerling said.



SECOND STORY — The architect's drawing above shows the planned second story of the Clements Building, 16-18 Market St. Work on the addition is expected to begin shortly. The first floor houses ACS/NORTECH, a computer firm.