

# ACR mediation phase ends

continued from page 1

Although the opponents of the project didn't move in their positions during mediation, Mr. Foxman said he and his partners made many significant concessions to accommodate concerns by some of the mediation parties.

Those concessions eliminated four of the ten issues itemized by the APA board in its order of February, 2007. Those important concessions include:

-the entire residential area known as East Ridge (36 ski in-ski out detached units) was eliminated from the plans. It was reportedly the best site on the 6,300-acre property for those types of homes.

-Nineteen of the 36 ski in-ski out units on the west side of the ski area were eliminated. Like East Ridge they were prime building lots, the developers say.

-the eight highest elevation townhouse sites

on the West Face Expansion were eliminated.

-the great camp lot layout was reconfigured so that six are 275 acres or more in size and 31 average 25 acres in size. Building areas on all are limited to three acres. On the six largest lots, open spaces ranges from 99% to 99.75%. On the other 31, open space is approximately 88%. In the original plans the great camp lots averaged 92 acres in size.

-the Orvis shooting school, sporting clays course and shooting school lodge have all been eliminated from the project. All, the developers say, were important amenities to help market the new development.

-the wastewater treatment plant proposed off Lake Simond Road has been eliminated, and new houses there will tie into the town sewer district instead.

-the "outfall point" of the remaining wastewater treatment plant was relocated.

-the canoe launch site on the south bay of Lake Simond was eliminated.

Mr. Foxman said this week he and his partners are committed to completing the permitting process to make the Adirondack Club and Resort a reality here.

He said that he and his partners appreciate the support and actions of the local governments in signing the mediation agreement and

for the overwhelming support shown by many local individuals and organizations who strongly support the ACR.

"Community support goes beyond a desire for the reopening of the Big Tupper ski area and evidences both the desires of the local residents to see their community rejuvenated," he said last week.

Development of the resort will more than triple the tax base of the Town of Tupper Lake. At build out, the school district will receive more net annual revenue from the resort alone than its current property tax receipts from the current school district.

"Local motels have closed. There are empty storefronts on Tupper Lake's main streets. The population is declining. School enrollment is down. Unemployment is high. The Adirondack Club and Resort has the potential to help on all counts!" Mr. Foxman concluded.

He added that their company, Preserve Associates, and their planning team, the LA Group of Saratoga Springs, will submit all additional materials to Judge O'Connell as detailed in the mediation agreement so that permit review can move to a pre-conference hearing and then the full adjudicatory hearing as soon as possible.

# T-bar reopening eyed

continued from page 1

Mr. Lawson, who attended Tuesday's mediation plan, said he was moved by the passion heard from supporters that day for the reopening of the ski area. He admitted that until last week he wasn't even aware there was an old t-bar lift system on site.

He said that he intends to be in Tupper Lake a good part of this summer to oversee the project.

"The first step is determining its feasibility- and once we know we can do it, we get to work," he told the Free Press. He said they were "committed" to doing it, if it can be done. "-And I don't know why it can't be done!"

Mr. LaValley said they intend to invite a half a dozen or so people to a meeting in a couple of weeks who are familiar with the ski center operation here. "From there we'll reach out to the community for help to get this done!"

For their part the ACR investors are willing to provide the property, the lodge building, the lift and the insurance to operate it, Mr. Lawson said Monday.

Operational plans still have to be worked out. "With the community's help, however, I think we can get people back skiing there this winter!"

The project leaders are also looking at the possibility of also building an outdoor skating rink there this winter and reopening the cross country trail network on Mt. Morris to reconnect with the new system at the Tupper Lake Country Club down the mountain.

# Student leaders address classmates

continued from page 1

"Tell the truth," she told them. "Don't complain. Work hard!"

She said it was important too "to be respectful" of others. "Have fun and take the time to have fun," was another of the principal's lessons.

And finally she asked to be sure to thank their parents and family members who have supported them during their childhood and teenage years.

Delivering the salutatory address, Allysa Houle, on behalf of her classmates, thanked their family members, coaches, teachers and staff, and administrators for guiding them through their high school years.

She recognized, in particular, her mother, Carol, for all her support and help these many years. "I'm thankful too for my accomplishments during high school."

The Class of 2009 members have shared many interesting experiences.

She drew a parallel between her classmates and the ones in the movie "The Breakfast Club," where a group of widely diversified students were drawn together in a classroom for a Saturday detention.

She said those students began as complete strangers and over the course of the day became friends. Their assignment was to collectively write a letter to the principal about themselves.

Like the teens in the Breakfast Club "we also have our share of brains, jocks, trouble-makers, basket cases, and quiet ones," she told her classmates.

In our letter to our teachers and our administrators we ask that



**Sarah Paiement welcomes graduates and guests Saturday.**

you know us for our individuality, and yet know us as a class, she noted.

She listed a few of the individuals who made up her class: quiet Susan, Nina, "who will someday rule the world," Ian, whose daily caffeine intake must always be limited, Scott, a good friend to everyone, Brian, who shows a different side on the basketball court, Faith with a gentle voice, Redia, "our little actress," headstrong Kelsey, Zach, who will always be remembered for his role as a woman, Katie, for her artistic talents with tattoos, Stephanie, whose laughter was always heard in the hallways and Cruz, who she believes would be voted "most likely in her class to be blamed for everything."

Allysa challenged her classmates to be proud of all the things that make them unique.

The class song, "The Song of Purple Summer", followed her address.

Valedictorian Kyle Amell said that like some of his classmates who received their early education at Holy

Ghost Academy, he joined the Class of 2009 sort of late.

"We always had a bigger playground," he joked of one of the advantages of his parochial school early education.

Kyle said he thought he and some of his classmates benefited from the stricter setting there and the collection of able teachers, some of whom were nuns.

"I recently found my fourth grade teacher posted on Facebook," he told his classmates. "That was both weird and exciting!"

Kyle said the HGA kids were readily accepted by the sixth graders at L.P. Quinn. "Jordan Nason had a fro in those days and I was shorter than this podium." His classmates laughed loudly. "We all made fools of ourselves in seventh grade," he reminded them.

Kyle said during their years together there have been some major milestones. "The Red Sox won the World Series...that was huge!"

He said that so much has happened during that time that the high school years passed "by in a blur." Many of us didn't stop and cherish our time together. He said he regretted that.

"Together we lived, we laughed and we learned," he told them.

Kyle centered out several of their teachers for their special marks on their classmates. He thanked teachers Gordie Duval and Lois Gnann for "using up every last minute of every class" and Doug Cochran "for doing the opposite."

The valedictorian had some advice too for his classmates: "be good to yourself and don't let others make decisions for you; don't lie...it never works out and work hard and never give up!"

Kyle agreed too with Sarah Paiement that it had been "one helluva ride!"

The final student speaker of the day was Nina Tice, senior class president.

She joked that her appearance on that day's graduation agenda was "the only thing that stood between the graduates and the exit door that afternoon."

Nina encouraged her classmates to always remember the good times they had together in high school. "We'll all be friends, forever!"

## Did You Know?

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-this insurance tip presented by Insurance Broker Dan McClelland and the agents at CBNA Insurance Agency.



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