

Shaheen's Motel going green one bar of soap at a time

by Newton Greiner

Robyn and Terry Doolen, owners of Shaheen's Motel in Tupper Lake have partnered with "Clean The World", an organization that has as its goal to conserve energy and recyclables.

About a year ago the Doolens came on board with Clean The World, and became certified by the New York State Hospitality Industry and by Audubon as a green conservation and energy organization.

Currently the Doolens' main focus with the group is to recycle used soap from their motel here in Tupper Lake. By doing this they are not only saving money but also conserving waste which would usually go into the landfill. "Now all of the old soap either goes down the drain or to Haiti and Africa, but not in the landfill," Terry Doolen quipped with a smile.

Clean the World is the second such organization the Doolens have worked with. They said they originally worked with another such organization in New York City, but eventually found Clean the World on the internet.

They called there, and found the people to be very enthusiastic and helpful. The Doolens said they use approximately 5,000 little bars of soap for their guests and 4,000 of the bigger bars. Most people use the bars once or twice and then leave it there.

According to its web site at www.cleantheworld.com, Clean the World "recycles soap and saves lives. Every day in North America,



Robyn and Terry Doolen and many pieces to help "Clean the World"

thousands of hotels discard millions of pounds of soap and shampoo. These products often end up in already overflowing landfills and contaminate fragile groundwater systems."

On the other hand, "impoverished people around the world die every day from acute respiratory infection and diarrheal disease because they have no soap."

The death toll is staggering according to reports. "Each year more than five million lives are lost to these diseases with the majority of deaths being among children less than five years old. Studies have shown that simple hand washing substantially reduces the spread of these diseases. Unfortunately, the essential items for proper hand washing are unobtainable for millions of

people worldwide," the site said.

Clean the World gets soap to people who really need it.

In an effort to prevent these needless deaths from occurring, Clean the World distributes recycled soap products, along with appropriate educational materials, to impoverished countries worldwide, and to domestic homeless shelters.

The website goes on to state- "You can help.

other materials used in their establishment.

According to Terry and Robin, they are also involved in a program through Rochester Institute of Technology for New York State recycleable benchmarking. Through this study it turns out that Shaheens Motel alone recycles approximately 1.3 tons of materials per year.

"It's a little bit labor intensive," the Doolens admit, "but when you look at the big picture, it's worth it."

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Adirondack Park Agency and Paul Smith's College reach agreement on Paul Smiths visitors interpretive center

Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and Paul Smith's College officials announce this week the transfer of the Paul Smiths Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC) facility. On December 31, 2010, the APA turned over the main 24,500-square-foot public assembly building which includes a 158-seat multi-purpose room, staff offices, exhibit and classroom space as well as all accessory structures to the college. The long standing lease of the college's land by APA will also terminate with this transfer of assets.

APA Chairman Curtis F. Stiles said, "Since the opening of the Paul Smiths VIC in 1989, hundreds of thousands of people visited the VIC and experienced the natural wonders of the Adirondack Park. We profoundly thank the staff and volunteers at the Visitor Interpretive Centers for all their great efforts and accomplishments."

"This transfer is good news for both the community and the VIC," said Dr. John W. Mills, President of Paul Smith's College. "We're excited that this great resource has been preserved. We will continue to look for ways to integrate the center into our academic programs, and explore additional possibilities for community involvement at the VIC."

This year, Paul Smith's College has worked with outside groups as part of its commitment to continuing the tradition of public access to the VIC building. The Adirondack Park Institute, a volunteer, not-for-profit group that supports educational programming at the VIC, has taken the lead in those efforts and has already raised more than \$40,000 to continue those offerings.

Additionally, the college intends to maintain public access to the VIC's extensive trail network. The trails, which are on college-owned land, attract thousands of hikers, cross-country skiers, snowshoers and other outdoor enthusiasts to the area every year.

"In addition to being a fantastic benefit to community members, the visitors drawn by the trails are vitally important to the area's economic health," Mills said.

APA Chairman Curtis F. Stiles said, "We commend Paul Smith's College for

coming forward and taking over this facility. Their intention to keep this valuable asset open to the public is an honorable community service. We also want to thank the State Comptroller's Office, Attorney General's Office and Office of General Services for all their assistance."

APA Executive Director Terry Martino said, "We are pleased that a positive outcome has resulted for the Paul Smiths VIC. The impact of the agency's Visitor Interpretive Centers was clearly significant in increasing environmental awareness. Our public outreach will now continue through the daily work efforts of all agency staff. I too join our Chairman in thanking Paul Smith's College for their commitment in this endeavor and look forward to their success."

Paul Smith's will announce plans for the VIC, including programming, staffing, hours of operations, public visitation, special programs inclusive of groups and schools, off site programs and outreach, in the near future.

The action concludes the agency's involvement with the Visitor Interpretive Centers. In July 2010 the APA transferred the state-owned buildings and equipment at the Newcomb VIC to SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. SUNY

School staff changes

The Tupper Lake Board of Education handled a number of personnel matters at its first meeting of 2011 Monday night.

Kate Martin and Aprille Nason were both appointed as teachers aides, effective Jan. 3 and 5, respectively.

The board accepted a letter of resignation from Julie Nealon-Newby, as of Monday, January 3.

Amanda Gonyea was retained by the district as a food service helper, as of December 15.

Among other staff items, the board:

-granted Custodian-Bus Driver Tim Rogers with his once per career longevity increment.

-appointed Maureen LoPresti, a retired teacher who taught many years at Long Lake, as a long-term substitute teacher at the middle-high school.

ESF now manages environmental programming for the Newcomb VIC and plans to integrate the facility with the Adirondack Ecological Center and the Northern Forest Institute and maintain public access.

The APA operated the Visitor Interpretive Centers at Paul Smiths and Newcomb since 1989 and 1990 respectively. Paul Smiths VIC staff provided interpretive services to nearly 75,000 students participating in school field trips since 1989.

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