

Issues and Programs, WSLU-FM Repeater Station

July, August, and September 2023

This station operates as a satellite of the North Country Public Radio network (flagship station is WSLU, Canton, NY). WSLU, Canton, NY and its satellite stations and translators make up the North Country Public Radio (NCPR) network. North Country Public Radio produces extensive coverage of local and regional stories and issues in order to serve all of its listeners in this rural region. NCPR's news director and reporters, as well as the station manager and other department directors, talk with listeners regularly and frequently, gathering information about community concerns and issues. In addition, the station uses broadcast and digital platforms to encourage listeners to share their thoughts and concerns by phone, mail, email, and social media. These comments are often the basis for local and regional news and feature content. This content is aired during the weekday morning regional news program *Northern Light and/or Story of the Day*, which airs weekdays at 5:48pm, and/or *North Words*, which airs on the last Friday of each month at 12 noon. All three programs are also available as a podcast, and online for reading and listening at ncpr.org. Here are some examples of the station's treatment of key stories and issues in the coverage area. These stories can be referenced at ncpr.org using the links included.

Format:

Title of Story

Date, 2023 — Description

Length: x:xx

Web link

Education & Child Care:

A NY grant meant to help child care providers is actually making their work more difficult

Aug 22, 2023 — New York's Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) says more than 540 new and existing providers have received grants and opened programs through the Child Care Deserts Grant for New Providers and Existing Providers. But the program has also drawn the ire of providers and child care professionals. They say the grant has been riddled with red tape, unreasonable expectations, and no one to turn to for help.

Length: 7:26

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48297/20230822/a-ny-grant-meant-to-help-child-care-providers-is-actually-making-their-work-more-difficult>

North Country health officials say now's the time for back-to-school shots

Jul 30, 2023 — The North Country's children are just weeks away from heading back to school. St. Lawrence County Public Health Department Deputy Director Carly Zimmerman spoke with Champlain Valley reporter Cara Chapman about how families can get their kids the shots they need for school and how COVID has affected immunization efforts.

Length: 5:17

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48211/20230730/north-country-health-officials-say-now-s-the-time-for-back-to-school-shots>

Anxiety and depression have skyrocketed in students. Why?

Sep 28, 2023 — Young Americans' mental health has been trending downwards for a while - even before the pandemic. But since COVID, rates of mental health issues like anxiety and depression have skyrocketed among students. For kids ages 10 to 14, suicide is the second leading cause of death.

Length: 2:55

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48527/20230928/anxiety-and-depression-have-skyrocketed-in-students-why>

SUNY Potsdam announces downsizing plan to cut \$9M deficit

Sep 19, 2023 — SUNY Potsdam President Suzanne Smith announced Tuesday that the university will be cutting up to 14 degree programs and eliminating an unknown number of faculty and staff positions.

The university needs to reduce its annual structural deficit of \$9 million. Smith gathered the community inside Snell Music Theater to hear how the administration plans to begin tackling the problem.

Length: 4:47

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48479/20230919/suny-potsdam-announces-downsizing-plan-to-cut-9m-deficit>

Housing:

Amidst housing crunch, an explosion of small affordable housing projects in the Adirondacks

Aug 01, 2023 — Across the North Country, home prices and rents have risen dramatically in the last few years. That's led to a widespread housing crunch. But it's also led to a lot of new development of small, affordable and attainable housing projects across the region.

Length: 5:58

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48165/20230801/amidst-housing-crunch-an-explosion-of-small-affordable-housing-projects-in-the-adirondacks>

Regional Economic & Business:

Plattsburgh loses appeal to save downtown development project

Aug 18, 2023 — The City of Plattsburgh has lost an appeal aimed at saving a major downtown development project. But the mayor says the project isn't dead yet.

Audio: <https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48325/20230821/8-21-23-protecting-honeybees-from-pesticides>

Transcript: <https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48318/20230818/plattsburgh-loses-appeal-to-save-downtown-development-project>

Lake George's tourism season was flat. That may be a victory with all the smoke and storms

Sep 06, 2023 — Climate change is forcing everyone to reconsider what they do and how. That includes tourism destinations. Destinations like Lake George are trying to create events that are more weather-resilient, such as light shows rather than fireworks. Tony Hall, co-owner and editor of the Lake George Mirror spoke with NCPR.

Length: 4:52

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48341/20230906/lake-george-s-tourism-season-was-flat-that-may-be-a-victory-with-all-the-smoke-and-storms>

ORDA on nearly \$1B investment in Olympic venues: "We've repainted the picture"

Jul 18, 2023 — Joe Martens, the board chairman of New York's Olympic Regional Development Authority, which runs the Winter Olympics facilities in Lake Placid, is a former commissioner of the state Department of Environmental Conservation. He told David Sommerstein that decision to invest in Lake Placid was and is a very good one.

Length: 9:07

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48141/20230718/orda-on-nearly-1b-investment-in-olympic-venues-we-ve-repainted-the-picture>

Agriculture:

Canton's food waste program faces challenges

Aug 31, 2023 — Problems with the food waste program in Canton are taking a toll on the Department of Public Works, which is tasked with maintaining the site. The Village of Canton is trying to figure out what to do next. Reporter Catherine Wheeler spoke with master composter Bob Washo about the situation.

Length: 4:55

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48367/20230831/canton-s-food-waste-program-faces-challenges>

Building community through the Peru Town Market

Aug 24, 2023 — One Sunday a month during the summer, Peru's Heyworth Mason Park comes alive. The Peru Town Market has a mix of artisans, farmers, food trucks and music. It began just a few years ago, but has become a staple of community life.

Length: 5:04

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48339/20230824/building-community-through-the-peru-town-market>

St. Lawrence County offering free farmer's market trips for seniors

Jul 17, 2023 — The St. Lawrence County Office of the Aging and Public Transit are offering residents ages 60 and older to a free ride and lunch at the Canton Farmers Market.

Length: *[Transcript only]*

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48146/20230717/st-lawrence-county-offering-free-farmer-s-market-trips-for-seniors>

Stories of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice:

A global outdoor adventurer on the real history of Black explorers

Sep 11, 2023 — J.R. Harris has hiked some of the world's most remote wildernesses - unsupported and mostly alone - including Patagonia, the Australian outback, and most recently, Tanzania. At age 79, he looks back on a lifetime of adventuring in this conversation with NCPR's David Sommerstein.

Length: 8:56

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48427/20230911/a-global-outdoor-adventurer-on-the-real-history-of-black-explorers>

Immigration:

From Venezuela through Roxham Road: "We made the decision to seek a better future"

Jul 23, 2023 — People fleeing from other countries to seek asylum in the U.S. and Canada — and sometimes ending up in the North Country — have been in the news all year. On the northern border, Canada closed a popular and internationally known unofficial crossing in northern Clinton County known as Roxham Road in March. We wanted to know more about how people get to Roxham Road, and what their lives are like before and after they get to Canada. So we followed one couple whose journey began in Venezuela. Note: Quotes attributed to the couple have been translated from Spanish.

Length: 07:54

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48178/20230723/from-venezuela-through-roxham-road-we-made-the-decision-to-seek-a-better-future>

St. Lawrence County legislators respond to migrant crisis

Sep 19, 2023 — A couple of weeks ago, lawmakers in St. Lawrence County were blindsided by a report that Massena's airport is on a list of possible sites to house the migrants who have amassed in New York

City. At a legislative meeting after that news broke, lawmakers passed a series of resolutions on the matter.

Length: 3:47

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48471/20230919/st-lawrence-county-legislators-respond-to-migrant-crisis>

Environment, Climate, and the Natural World:

An expert talks solar battery farms, how they work and the risks

Sep 11, 2023 — A solar battery fire in Jefferson County this summer raised concerns about existing and potential solar projects across the North Country. We wanted to learn more about how solar batteries work and what communities need to know about the risks. Catherine Wheeler reached out to an expert, Cornell University mechanical engineering professor Max Zhang.

Length: 5:23

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48403/20230911/an-expert-talks-solar-battery-farms-how-they-work-and-the-risks>

The New York Power Authority opens new electric vehicle chargers in Potsdam

Sep 12, 2023 — The New York Power Authority unveiled a new high-speed electric vehicle charging station in the North Country at the Stewarts Shops in Potsdam on Tuesday.

Length: 1:37

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48443/20230912/the-new-york-power-authority-opens-new-electric-vehicle-chargers-in-potsdam>

Iconic view of the Adirondacks preserved by land trust for \$2.3 million

Aug 07, 2023 — One of the most iconic views of the Adirondack High Peaks has been protected by an environmental group. The Adirondack Land Trust purchased 187 acres along the Adirondack Loj Road and Rt. 73 near Lake Placid.

Length: 3:48

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48254/20230807/iconic-view-of-the-adirondacks-preserved-by-land-trust-for-2-3-million>

Local leaders and environmentalists share bond act ideas in Saranac Lake

Aug 15, 2023 — State officials are collecting ideas on how to spend the \$4.2 billion environmental bond act that New York voters approved last fall. More than 120 people attended a bond act listening session in Saranac Lake last week.

Length: 4:04

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48290/20230815/local-leaders-and-environmentalists-share-bond-act-ideas-in-saranac-lake>

Hiker traffic intensifies on Cascade, ADK summit stewards focus on education

Aug 14, 2023 — It's been a busy spring and early summer in the Adirondack High Peaks, especially on Cascade Mountain, which is one of the most accessible 46ers to climb. Summit stewards on Cascade counted nearly three times as many hikers on that peak on weekends this May than they did during the same time last year.

Length: 3:57

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48284/20230814/hiker-traffic-intensifies-on-cascade-adk-summit-stewards-focus-on-education>

North Country People, Culture, Arts, and Music:

The tale of a storybook-worthy mural in Colton

Sep 22, 2023 — Just to the left of the Colton Hepburn Library is an enchanted story garden. The pages of a children's book are planted on stands along the hedge. There are bright metal flowers that sound like bells and chimes when you hit their petals with a mallet. Right in the middle along the back hedge sits Joanne Lincoln's creation: a scene that looks plucked right out of a children's book.

Length: 3:54

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48458/20230922/the-tale-of-a-storybook-worthy-mural-in-colton>

[How Ann Sweeten uses her own illness to make music that can help through the healing process](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48278/20230811/how-ann-sweeten-uses-her-own-illness-to-make-music-that-can-help-through-the-healing-process)

Aug 11, 2023 — Ann Sweeten is a composer of piano music - music that not only helps her work through challenging times, but helps other people with their own health challenges. She's been living with chronic illnesses - in her case, first, breast cancer and now leukemia. Her new CD is called "Love Walks Through Rain." She divides her time between Clayton and Massachusetts, and she spoke with Mitch Teich about her life and music.

Length: 26:48

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48278/20230811/how-ann-sweeten-uses-her-own-illness-to-make-music-that-can-help-through-the-healing-process>

[Why this ADKX curator says the Adirondacks have always been a mecca to artists](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48199/20230728/why-this-adkx-curator-says-the-adirondacks-have-always-been-a-mecca-to-artists)

Jul 28, 2023 — A brand-new permanent exhibit seeks to open visitors' eyes and give them a new understanding of why the Adirondacks have been so important to so many people from different walks of life. North Words host Mitch Teich spoke with Laura Rice, chief curator at the ADKX.

Length: 20:08

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48199/20230728/why-this-adkx-curator-says-the-adirondacks-have-always-been-a-mecca-to-artists>