

Issues and Programs, WSLU-FM Repeater Station

July, August, and September 2022

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, which produces extensive coverage of local and regional stories and issues and is simulcast on all the NCPR stations 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 program director, talk with listeners regularly and frequently to gather 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/text, mail, email, and social media. All such comments receive a reply from station management or a news representative and 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* (at 8 AM weekdays) and/or *Story of the Day* (airing at 5:48pm weekdays). Both are also available as a podcast, and online for reading and listening at ncpr.org. Here are some samples of the station's treatment of key stories and issues in the coverage area. These stories can all be heard and read in their entirety at ncpr.org.

The examples below are presented in the following format:

Title of Story

Date, 2021 — Description

Length: (x:xx)

Web link

Housing Issues in the North Country:

Lake George reckons with short-term rental headaches

Aug 24, 2022 — Short-term rentals – sites like Airbnb and VRBO – have raised big housing headaches in the North Country's other tourist communities, like [Lake Placid](#) and the Thousand Islands.

(5:06)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46392/20220824/lake-george-reckons-with-short-term-rental-headaches>

Malone breaks ground on new affordable housing project

Jul 21, 2022 — Local politicians and representatives of community organizations officially broke ground Tuesday on a new development that will bring 40 affordable housing units to downtown Malone.

(4:35)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46286/20220721/malone-breaks-ground-on-new-affordable-housing-project>

ESPN will broadcast 2023 winter games in Lake Placid, housing still in the works

Aug 04, 2022 — Every two years, some of the best college athletes from around the globe compete in the FISU World University Games. This winter, the winter games are coming to the North Country. There are still some big hurdles ahead, maybe the biggest being housing.

(4:12)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46356/20220804/espn-will-broadcast-2023-winter-games-in-lake-placid-housing-still-in-the-works>

Education:

North Country teachers and families weigh in on their hopes for the school year

Sep 07, 2022 — As the 2022 - 23 school year begins, we've been asking families and teachers to reflect on the last few years and to tell us what they're thinking about this fall. Just about everyone agrees: the last few years of school have been tough. Tough on kids, their families, and on teachers.

(6:20)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46518/20220907/north-country-teachers-and-families-weigh-in-on-their-hopes-for-the-school-year>

The flipside of the North Country teacher shortage? Teachers have choices

Sep 01, 2022 — Teachers are in high demand, and districts are matching salaries. That's led to a lot of reshuffling, within districts, and between districts.

(04:24)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46493/20220901/the-flipside-of-the-north-country-teacher-shortage-teachers-have-choices>

SUNY Potsdam gets warning about its accreditation

Sep 26, 2022 — SUNY Potsdam has been notified that its accreditation “may be in jeopardy”. A key accreditor for the federal Department of Education found problems with SUNY Potsdam’s financial and academic reporting.

(2:06)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46625/20220926/suny-potsdam-gets-warning-about-its-accreditation>

Land Use, Environmental Issues, Outdoor Recreation:

Mohawks call on EPA to remove toxic sediment in Grasse River

Sep 08, 2022 — Work begins this week to repair a cap on toxic sediment in the Grasse River near Massena. Last March, the cap partially failed in its first winter of use. The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe is again calling on the federal government to remove all the toxic sediment from the Grasse.

(3:21)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46542/20220908/mohawks-call-on-epa-to-remove-toxic-sediment-in-grasse-river>

Climate change threatens wildlife and a way of life in the Adirondacks

Sep 28, 2022 — The climate of the Adirondacks has been changing for more than a century. A leading climate scientist in the Adirondacks says the biggest changes and threats to our way of

life are yet to come. Paul Smith's professor Curt Stager coauthored a new paper with Brendan Wiltse and Skylar Murphy about how climate change will lead to shorter, milder winters and what that could mean for Adirondack communities.

(5:30)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46630/20220928/climate-change-threatens-wildlife-and-a-way-of-life-in-the-adirondacks>

Fentanyl in the North Country: Addiction/Overdose:

Spread of fentanyl concerns North Country addiction specialists and law enforcement

Aug 22, 2022 — Law enforcement agencies in Saranac Lake and Washington County reported sudden clusters of drug overdoses in the past two months. The cause was fentanyl, a synthetic opioid many times more powerful than heroin. The overdoses are part of a new, growing trend in the North Country.

(01:41)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46451/20220822/spread-of-fentanyl-concerns-north-country-addiction-specialists-and-law-enforcement>

Lake Placid Police warn of contaminated drugs

Jul 01, 2022 — Lake Placid Police are warning of tainted drugs in the community. The concern comes after two overdoses in Saranac Lake this week. Police believe the drug involved was heroin. Police Chief Charles Dobson says they're warning the public about drugs in stamped envelopes with a blue symbol on the bag. "Based on the effects and past experience we believe it was likely fentanyl," he said.

(00:52)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46168/20220701/lake-placid-police-warn-of-contaminated-drugs>

Fentanyl is now in nearly all illegal drugs in the North Country. Here's why that's so dangerous

Aug 31, 2022 — Today is International Overdose Awareness Day, a time to remember those who've died of drug overdoses. Fentanyl is now in nearly all illegal drugs in the North Country. Here's why that's so dangerous.

(05:56)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46497/20220831/fentanyl-is-now-in-nearly-all-illegal-drugs-in-the-north-country-here-s-why-that-s-so-dangerous>

North Country Politics, Elections, and Elected Officials:

NY21: Castelli says he's the moderate Democrat to defeat Stefanik

Aug 01, 2022 — Matt Castelli speaks with reporter Emily Russell while at a campaign stop in the Warren County town of Chestertown to speak with voters about why he thinks he can beat his Democrat primary opponent, Matt Putorti, and then go on to challenge Republican Elise Stefanik, who has been in Congress since 2015.

(5:21)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46319/20220801/ny21-castelli-says-he-s-the-moderate-democrat-to-defeat-stefanik>

Stefanik says she brings \$600M into NY21. But some of her claims are misleading.

Sep 30, 2022 — Since the North Country last elected Elise Stefanik to Congress, she's become one of the highest profile politicians in the Republican Party. NCPR News has been taking a deep look at Stefanik's attention to local issues and attracting federal funding. Here's what we found.

(7:44)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46652/20220930/stefanik-says-she-brings-600m-into-ny21-but-some-of-her-claims-are-misleading>

The NY21 race is heating up. We break down Stefanik and Castelli's strategies

Sep 06, 2022 — There are less than two months to go until the midterm elections. In the North Country, Democrat Matt Castelli is challenging incumbent Republican Congresswoman Elise Stefanik in November for the 21st Congressional seat. Castelli is trying to appeal to more moderate voters, particularly on the right, while Stefanik is largely focusing her attacks on President Joe Biden.

(6:46)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46500/20220906/the-ny21-race-is-heating-up-we-break-down-stefanik-and-castelli-s-strategies>

Gun Control:

New gun laws raise concern for Battle of Plattsburgh reenactments

Sep 09, 2022 — A North Country lawmaker has spotlighted a new concern with the state's newly enacted concealed carry laws. At a press conference on Plattsburgh City Hall's steps Thursday, Assemblyman Billy Jones and organizers of this weekend's Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration said it seems the legislation prohibits battle reenactments and the carrying of firearms in parades.

(3:25)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46550/20220909/new-gun-laws-raise-concern-for-battle-of-plattsburgh-reenactments>

Will it be a felony to have a gun in the Adirondacks? The governor's office says no

Jul 07, 2022 (text story) — New York's new gun bill, passed in a special session and signed by Gov. Kathy Hochul last week, creates a list of "sensitive locations" where guns will be prohibited when the law takes effect Sept. 1. The legislation was a response to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that overturned the state's concealed carry restrictions. North Country lawmakers want to know what the state's new gun law means for Adirondack Park gun owners.

Jul 11, 2022 (audio conversation) - No, guns won't be illegal in the Adirondacks

(3:56)

(text) <https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46201/20220707/will-it-be-a-felony-to-have-a-gun-in-the-adirondacks-the-governor-s-office-says-no>

(audio) <https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46219/20220711/7-11-22-no-guns-won-apos-t-be-illegal-in-the-adirondacks>

North Country People, Places, and Culture:

North Country at Work: Dorothy Potter, Morley's first school 'lunch lady'

Sep 06, 2022 — Until the 1950s, the hamlet of Morley had no lunch program for its two-room schoolhouse. Like other small schools across Saint Lawrence County and the North Country, students brought their own food from home. But then, in 1954, the Special Milk Program was passed by Congress, which offered compensation to schools for serving milk to their kids. Don Potter, who was a high school student at the time, says this changed his mother's life forever.

(3:48)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/34007/20220906/north-country-at-work-dorothy-potter-morley-s-first-school-lunch-lady>

North Country at Work: Father-daughter whitewater guiding duo Peter and Cassandra Burns

Sep 07, 2022 — North River native Peter Burns founded Beaver Brook Outfitters in 1991. Whitewater rafting is one of the biggest parts of their business. He and his daughter Cassandra Burns, a whitewater guide since 2008, co-run the business. She says that rafting offers a unique way to see remote parts of the Adirondacks.

(2:57)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46464/20220907/north-country-at-work-father-daughter-whitewater-guiding-duo-peter-and-cassandra-burns>

Native American Issues / Akwesasne:

The Akwesasne International Pow Wow returns

Sep 16, 2022 — The Akwesasne International PowWow finally returned last weekend. It was the 20th year the event has been held. It was canceled the past two years because of the coronavirus pandemic. The highlight of the pow wow is the dancing and drumming competitions with people from all over North America.

(4:53)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46576/20220916/the-akwesasne-international-pow-wow-returns>

An Akwesasne Mohawk survivor of residential schools seeks justice, not apologies

by David Sommerstein (News Director)

Doug George-Kanentiio. Photo: David Sommerstein

Jul 29, 2022 — Friday is the last of Pope Francis' six days in Canada. He's delivering apologies for abuses of Indigenous youths at Catholic-run boarding schools. Residential school survivor Doug George-Kanentiio of Akwesasne

(7:44)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46328/20220729/an-akwesasne-mohawk-survivor-of-residential-schools-seeks-justice-not-apologies>

North Country Music and Musicians:

"I celebrate who I am," Akwesasne singer songwriter traces his punishing path

Jul 11, 2022 — NCPR's Doyle Dean spoke with Atsiaktonkie (pronounced: ah-gee-ach-DOOn-geh) about his decades in the music business, how he got there, and about a new record by his band December Wind (produced by the legendary Keith Secola).

(04:53)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/45503/20220711/i-celebrate-who-i-am-akwesasne-singer-songwriter-traces-his-punishing-path>

Arts & Culture:

Remembering Thousand Islands sculptor Will Salisbury

Aug 16, 2022 — A Thousand Islands artist who created legendary metal creations that dot the North Country and who also had a reputation for his warmth and conversation died a week ago in Hospice care. Will Salisbury was 72. Salisbury spoke to NCPR in 2020 for his exhibit at the Thousand Islands Arts Center in Clayton.

(4:53)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/41833/20220816/remembering-thousand-islands-sculptor-will-salisbury>

Akwesasne artist explores native identity in his prints and poems

Jul 14, 2022 — Poetry tells a story - a story of heritage, dignity and resistance. It offers the intimacy of being seen, opening a door for conversation with yourself and with others. Visual arts have a similar impact, transcending the boundaries of written and spoken language. NCPR Interns Iman Maani and Jessica Tom's love for poetry and art led them to Alex Jacobs - a poet, artist and creator from Akwesasne.

(6:07)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46244/20220714/akwesasne-artist-explores-native-identity-in-his-prints-and-poems>

Mexican artist who gave life to Day of the Dead skeletons on display in Glens Falls

Jul 20, 2022 — You know those Mexican Day of the Dead skeletons? Well, there's one artist that popularized them and his work is on display at the Hyde Collection in Glens Falls this summer.

(4:25)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/46259/20220720/mexican-artist-who-gave-life-to-day-of-the-dead-skeletons-on-display-in-glens-falls>

