



Henry R. "Hank" Ford and his wife Diane have been married for 47 years and live on beautiful Higley Flow, on the Racquette River in Colton, New York.

They have four grown children and six grandchildren, with whom he spends much of his time.

Hank is a communicant of St. Mary's Church in Colton and serves on the Board of St. Mary's Cemetery Association.

He continues to run his several businesses almost singlehandedly and is currently on the Board of the "Rooftop Highway" working committee.

He is member of Stillwater Hunting Club and other outdoor groups.

Henry R. "Hank" Ford

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Hank Ford was born in the hamlet of South Colton, St. Lawrence County, and has an inherent love of Northern New York and its people.

After graduating from Colton -Pierrepoint Central High, he attended Central New York Barber College and quickly established himself in the profession in 1961 at the Army's premier post, Fort Drum (then Camp Drum). Returning to his home county, he began his own thriving shop, which he still operates today in Canton.

With typical entrepreneurial spirit, Hank quickly expanded his business interests. Today he owns and operates not just the barber shop, but also a hockey and sporting goods store, an ice skate sharpening service which services players from the area schools, college hockey players, and the general public, and for many years he has owned and operated a screen printing business.

While growing his businesses, Hank also took an active interest in his community and soon recognized the need for rental properties to serve a constantly growing population of students and professors from the area's four colleges. Today, his real estate holdings, both residential and commercial, provide affordable housing for academic and small business tenants.

With his natural leadership skills, Hank became increasingly involved in civic organizations and volunteerism within St. Lawrence County. He served as Director of the Canton JC's, was a member of the Potsdam Rescue Squad and the Pierrepoint Fire Department. He continues to work with the St. Lawrence University Booster Club and supports a wide variety of sports teams on the youth, high school and college level.

An avid outdoorsman, Hank found time to work with several sportsmen's groups. Spending much of his youth in the northern Adirondack woods, working with his father's logging and lumber mill company, led to serving as president and secretary for hunting and fishing clubs, including the Racquette River Sportsmen.

In part, due to his involvement with these outdoor groups, Hank soon found himself involved in Adirondack and state land issues. He was soon fighting for equal and just access to taxpayer owned lands. He discovered a talent and ingenuity for working in the political system to effect what he felt were critical issues for the quality of life for the residents of Northern New York. He began to step onto the larger stage of political activism.

Hank served for seven years as the Vice-Chair of the St. Lawrence County Republican Party. In 1992 he organized and established the St. Lawrence County Conservative Party and serves as its Chairperson.

Hank led his political organizations through years of elections on the local, town, county and state level. He organized and directed successful grassroots campaigns, making important contacts and life-long friendships everywhere he went.

Hank ran for public office, was elected and served as Supervisor for the Town of Colton for ten years, the first Conservative to hold that position. He encouraged citizen groups to become involved in the community and local government. He organized and served as chairperson for the Colton Winterfest for 11 years, which proved a highly successful economic boost for the township.

Throughout his years in public office, Hank worked with citizen groups and through legislation to protect and grow the economies of local communities. His often quoted mantra that “strong families make strong communities, and that makes a strong America” was evident in his dedication to what was fair and of benefit to his constituency.

While serving as Town Supervisor, Hank was the representative from Region A to the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages. He was chosen as a delegate to the AATV NYS Resolution Committee. As such, he was able to continue his passion for protecting the economic viability of communities affected by expanding land purchases by New York State and the growing power of preservationist groups which sought to limit access to those lands.

To further those goals, Hank organized and chaired the Adirondack Citizens Council, Inc., a group dedicated to preserving the history, culture and traditional land uses in the Adirondacks. He also served on Governor Pataki’s Snowmobile Council.

An advocate for motorized recreation, Hank, who was one of the first organizers of the St. Lawrence County Snowmobile Assoc., was quick to realize that much of the North Country’s winter survival depended on the influx of trail users, and continued to press for expanded trail systems to accommodate not only snowmobiles, but all terrain vehicles and other motorized recreation. The loss of major industry in the North Country had proven that tourism offered a viable means of economic development. His belief in the wise use of our natural resources has led to his continuing promotion of multi-use trails and recreational facilities.

In 2005, Hank was featured in the publication “Adirondack Explorer” in two articles; one entitled “Champion of Balanced Use of Adirondack Lands”. In 2008 the magazine “Adirondack Life” published a profile of Hank under the headline “Built North Country Tough”.

Hank’s willingness to go the distance is legendary. His energy seems boundless and when his phone rings, as it so often does, it’s as apt to be an Albany Legislator as it is to be a local citizen with a problem.

Senator Ray Meier has said of Hank, “Hank has always worked in a bipartisan manner. He was able to reach out to both sides of the political spectrum”.

Senator Meier also stated, “From the town hall steps in Colton to the Capitol steps in Albany, when it comes to getting things done Hank knows how!”