



**ADKX Announces Initiative to Celebrate and Explore the Adirondack Park Agency  
On the Occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**APA@50 Features Virtual Symposium, Documentary, an Online Exhibition  
Developed in Collaboration with Leading Scholars and Mountain Lake PBS**

**Blue Mountain Lake, NY—May 4, 2021**—The Adirondack Experience (ADKX) announced today that it is launching **APA@50**, an initiative developed in collaboration with historian and author Dr. Philip Terrie and Mountain Lake PBS to reflect on the creation and impact of the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) on the occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Established in June 1971 by the New York Legislature, the APA was tasked with developing and implementing a land use policy for public and private lands within the Blue Line. For 50 years, the APA has shaped the experience of the Adirondack Park, conserving land for wildlife and for human recreation and use. **APA@50** will feature a day-long virtual symposium organized by Dr. Terrie on June 22; the presentation of a documentary produced by Mountain Lake PBS; and an online exhibition created by ADKX to further highlight the history of the APA.

The **APA@50** events also coincide with the forthcoming release of the book, ***A Wild Idea: How the Environmental Movement Tamed the Adirondacks*** (May 2021; Cornell University Press) by independent journalist Brad Edmondson. *A Wild Idea* is grounded in years of research, which included dozens of interviews with individuals important to the establishment and evolution of the APA. Among the interviewees are early proponents of the agency such as Arthur Crocker, Peter Paine, Clarence Petty, George Davis, Bob Flacke, and Arthur Savage, as well as opponents such as Frank Casier, Andrew Halloran, and George Canon. Edmondson also delved into the wealth of content available at the New York State Archives, Union College’s Adirondack Research Library, Saranac Lake Free Library, Cornell’s Koch Library, the SUNY ESF Archives, and the M.E. Grenander Archives at SUNY Albany. He also worked with the archives at ADKX, including the Richard Lawrence collection, which holds 88 remarkable recordings of public hearings that took place in lead-up to the passage, in 1973, of the controversial Adirondack Park Private Land Use and Development Plan.

The day-long virtual symposium, presented by ADKX and titled ***APA@50: A Half-Century of Policy and Planning in the Adirondack Park***, is curated and hosted by Dr. Terrie, who published *Contested Terrain: A New History of People and Nature in the Adirondacks* (1997; Adirondack Museum and Syracuse University Press). Unfolding throughout the day on June 22, the symposium will include three panel discussions featuring a wide range of scholars and individuals involved with the APA and explore the agency’s successes; how regulation has evolved over the past half-century and where it is headed; and how practice in the United States compares with policies overseas. A comprehensive listing of speakers, discussion subjects, and timings, as well as registration details can be found at ADKX website, at <https://www.theadkx.org/apa50-symposium/>.

As part of *APA@50*, the ADKX is also collaborating with Mountain Lake PBS to create and present an original documentary, titled *A Wild Idea*, about the birth of the APA and its effect on the Adirondack Park. The film will include excerpts from Edmondson's audio and video interviews as well as TV news clips and other content to bring the story of the agency further to life. The documentary will air in the fall of 2021.

The ADKX will also launch a new online exhibition in the fall of 2021. Featuring audiovisual content from Edmondson's interviews and the museum's own historical collections, the interactive exhibition will commemorate and further contextualize the 50th anniversary of the APA. By delving deeper into first-person accounts of the early days of the APA, the exhibition will serve as a companion piece to supplement information presented in the Mountain Lake PBS documentary and the symposium.

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#### **About Dr. Philip Terrie**

A former Assistant Curator at ADKX, Philip Terrie is Professor Emeritus of American Culture and Environmental Studies at Bowling Green State University. He is the author of numerous books and articles on Adirondack history, including *Contested Terrain* and *Seeing the Forest: Reviews, Musings, and Opinions from an Adirondack Historian* (2017).

#### **About Brad Edmondson**

Brad Edmondson is the author of several other books, including *Ice Cream Social: The Struggle For the Soul of Ben & Jerrys*. He is the former editor-in-chief of *American Demographics* magazine, current board chair of *The Cornell Daily Sun*, and an alumnus of Deep Springs College and Cornell University. For more information, visit [www.bradedmondson.com](http://www.bradedmondson.com).

#### **About Mountain Lake PBS**

Mountain Lake PBS serves nearly four million people in New York, Vermont, Quebec and Ontario with acclaimed PBS series and award-winning local productions. Mountain Lake also provides a wide range of education and outreach services for learners of all ages, including at least eight hours a day of programming for children. Mountain Lake PBS's mission is to inspire and enrich people and communities through meaningful entertainment, education, and public engagement.

#### **About Adirondack Experience**

Adirondack Experience, The Museum on Blue Mountain Lake (ADKX), accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, shares the history and culture of the Adirondack region through interactive exhibits, hands-on activities, and culturally rich collections in more than 24 historic and contemporary buildings on a 121- acre campus in the heart of the Adirondacks. The museum is supported in part with donations from the general public, with some general operating support made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. For additional information, call 518-352-7311 or visit [www.theADKX.org](http://www.theADKX.org).

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