



Extras

Stock	Last	Change
DOW	10,333	20 ▲
NASDAQ	1,913	19 ▲
S&P 500	1,127	3 ▲

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The information in the atlas is presented in a series of tightly focused, stand-alone features that rarely run more than a page. Woven into the facts and figures are old stories about Indian wars, logging drives and forest lore.

"The text is minimal: reading maps is almost as much fun as making them, and we didn't want to spoil your fun," Jenkins writes in the first chapter.

The Conservation Society's Leslie Karasin, a primary researcher on the atlas, said the book has many audiences, from avid hikers to traveling business executives. The book is perfect for newcomers wanting to learn about the area and can surprise old-timers with its near-forgotten information treasures _ like the location of the region's turn-of-the-century train stations and steamboat docks.

There's a bounty of practical information on where to find the region's libraries, fire departments, campgrounds, hotel rooms, convenience stores, and hospitals, among other things. Other chapters reveal the secrets of the six-million-acre park and its forests, including the location of great fires, big storms and ranger rescue missions.

In a section called "The Big One Comes Back!", the atlas charts moose sightings since 1980. There are also separate sections for bears, beavers, coyotes, cougars, lynxes, deer, wolves and rabid raccoons. (Want to know which county had the most "bear incidents?" See page 65.)

The atlas also gives a quick history lesson on the Adirondacks with a chapter on War, Settlement and Industry. It begins with the Beaver Wars involving the Five Nations of the Iroquois and ends with a section entitled, "Armageddon from Au Sable Forks: The Cold War in New York, 1950-1990" and "The Most Powerful Park in the World," a section that shows the location of now-abandoned nuclear missile silos in the park.

Using data gleaned from the U.S. Census Bureau, the atlas presents a portrait of the people who live in the Adirondacks with population maps on age and ethnicity; marriages and divorces; births and deaths. There is information on occupations, income, working and living costs, poverty, unemployment, social services, death, injury, disease and crime.

"Some of the information was right there in books or on the Internet," Jenkins said. "Some of the historical data we found in libraries and archives. Local governments shared with us. Some of it we had to dig for. We got to know some of the town clerks real well, we talked to them so many times during the project."

"We didn't just want to make an encyclopedia that was going to sit on someone's book shelf. We wanted it alive and interesting. A book that would draw people in," he said.

By the way, hikers will probably want to know that Lyme disease was most prevalent in Saratoga County, which had 11 cases in 2000.

Saratoga County also had the second-most cases (25) of Beaver Fever _ doctors call it giardia _ a thoroughly unpleasant, but rarely serious, intestinal disease that can be transferred from infected mammals through contact with contaminated water or food.

Don't believe it? Look it up. Page 137.

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