

# Beau Overlook Cottage Blog Spot

January 2014 ~WHAT ARE THE BEST DAYS TO BE IN WILLSBORO?

Having been in this area now for three winters, I have come to find that the Boquet river, running below Beau Overlook, is the BAROMETER of the surrounding area. This body of water, how hard it is frozen, or how fast it is flowing, is simply a reflection of the bigger picture of local weather events.

This particular winter had been very cold – then it got warmer for about a week; and then it got deeply cold again (that means sub-zero temps, for many days in a row). The people in the area persevere. They may not enjoy the current weather that much; but exhibit a good deal of resilience to the coldest weeks of the year. They probably know that this is the price they pay for those gorgeous summer days in the North Country, just weeks away now.

We arrived at the cottage in mid-January. The river was in a state of "ice". The rigid sheath looked so permanent. Our dogs could easily walk on top of it. The ice fishing huts were sprouting up on shallow areas of Lake Champlain, like dark stubbles jutting out of a white frozen canvas. After a few days, the weather started to warm up a bit, enough to soften the surface; and then within a few days, the river released in huge ice chunks, and went floating on out to Lake Champlain, in a series of hours that seem to occur more swiftly, than one could imagine.

We had just started to enjoy the flowing water view beneath us, when the air temperatures started to dip into sub-zeros again. Then with repeated days & nights of continuous frigid weather, the river started to show signs of seizing up again. All of these changes happened within ten days (frozen, thaw, and re-freeze). It serves to remind me that Mother Nature is the BOSS! For my part, I am just happy when I can take it all in, as these transformations can be quite a show! Even the coldest of days display an austere, natural, beauty all of their own.

