



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

WINDHAM, VERMONT

JULY - AUGUST 2007

Select Board addresses issues from roads to utility bills

by Mary Boyer

I was welcomed to the Windham Select Board on March 12 with assurances from Walter Woodruff and Margaret Dwyer that they would do everything in their power to bring me up to speed. At that meeting, Walter was elected chairman for a year, and a number of annually appointed positions were filled or renewed.

As part of my initiation Rodney Watkins gave the three selectmen a tour of the town garage, and he will take us on an inspection of town roads during the good weather.

We now have a radio frequency sharing agreement with Grafton, and a mutual assistance agreement with other towns in Windham County to give or receive equipment and personnel as needed in an emergency.

The damage to our roads from the April storms required about \$100,000 in labor and materials for repairs. We have applied to FEMA for emergency relief funds and have been assured we are likely to be approved.

In late March, Beth McDonald approached the select board and asked that the town consider subscribing to

CVPS's COW Power for the Town Office in an effort to contribute in some way to the use of alternative energy sources. This statewide initiative supports the use of methane gas from cow manure to generate electricity. (The reverse side of your regular CVPS bill contains information about COW power, and we encourage you to read it.)

Beth gathered 32 signatures on a petition in support of this proposal. The petition requests that we consider subscribing to Cow Power for 50% of the electricity used in the Town Office at an increased cost of \$.04 per kilowatt hour. This premium will amount to an annual increase in the town's electric bill of about \$175.00, or 31 cents per taxpayer. We are still gathering information about COW Power and will be making a decision soon.

The Windham Planning Board is nearing completion of its ongoing effort to update our town plan. We encourage all residents to check the bulletin boards outside the Town Office and the Meeting House for notice of the planning board meetings. Copies of the draft will be available in the Town Office as soon as it is ready for review. Input from town residents is an important part of letting your officials know your wishes. An effective town plan requires broad participation.

There is still money available in the Homeowners Rehabilitation Grant Fund for qualifying residents. Inquiries can be made to Edith Serke or Marcia Clinton.

(continued next page)

July 28 set for WCO Chicken BBQ

by Beverly Carmichael

The Windham Community Organization will once again sponsor a chicken barbeque and strawberry shortcake festival on Saturday, July 28, 2007 at 5:00 PM. This year there will also be two raffles, an arts and crafts show, and a library book sale.

Raffle tickets can be purchased at the town offices for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. You can also purchase tickets at the barbeque. A stunning handmade quilt made and donated by Arline Hay will be awarded separately in one of the two raffles.

Billy's back to do the chicken livers, so Imme is off the hook at least for this year. And just when you thought this evening couldn't be better, Walter Woodruff will once again be sharing his delicious barbeque recipe with us. We will be enjoying the magnificent music of the Turkey Mountain Window Smashers during our meal.

Anybody who would like to show their art or craft projects is invited to participate; there is no charge for your display. (See the box on page 2.) Book donations will be accepted at the library prior to the sale.

Come join the fun!

To our readers...

After this issue, the *Windham News & Notes* will regrettably lose its editor, Mary McCoy. There is a strong commitment within the community to continue publication. Several members of the team have offered to assume layout duties. We hope all our readers will bear with us during this transition. We are always eager for new team members and writers, also anyone with computer skills. We take as much pleasure in the production of the WN&N as you enjoy receiving it. Come join us for the fun.

The Windham News and Notes Team

Select board *(continued from page 1)*

The lawsuit regarding the flooding of the old talc mine on White Road is scheduled for a hearing before the Environmental Court in August. We will keep you advised of this matter.

We are also working on a policy manual for town employees. Policies have evolved over the years and will be put in a formalized pamphlet to make them easier to understand and more consistent.

The select board hopes you are all enjoying these beautiful warm-weather days here in Windham.

WANTED

**WOODWORKERS
FIBER ARTISTS - POTTERS
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ITEMS ON JULY 28
AT THE WCO CHICKEN BBQ**

FOR FURTHER INFO, CALL NANCY DYKE AT 874-4428

Fire Co. loses great friend

from members of the Windham Volunteer Fire Company

On April 24, the Windham Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. lost a very dear friend. Our auctioneer, Ron Wood, passed away with cancer. Ron was the joy of the Windham Fire auction. He made everyone laugh and was always cheerful. When the firemen got down in the dumps and did not think the donations were coming in very well, Ron would say, "You got lots of good stuff here," and he would sell it all.

Ron made the pie auction so much fun. Not many auctioneers can sell an apple pie for \$235. He always worked hard to get as much money as he possibly could for



July 4th 4:00 PM Meeting House

**FREE HOT DOGS
SOFT DRINKS
ICE CREAM**



The Society of the Friends of the Windham Meeting House wish to help start the summer season with a get-together to include all those who live or own property in Windham, as well as their guests and those who support the Meeting House. Complimentary dishes or desserts are welcome.

Primarily, we want all to come and celebrate this joyous day with your neighbors. This is a rain or shine affair. Bring your own chair or bench for your comfort.

Fire Company Auction and BBQ August 11, 2007

**10:00 Auction begins
5:00 PM Chicken BBQ, followed by Pie Auction**

**Call Jan or Ralph at 875-3373 to donate items
Call Rick at 874-4104 to arrange a drop off**

Thank you for your support!

us. For years he lifted our spirits and got us fired up and ready for the auction day. Some of the people at the auction would come just to listen to Ron. He always had a joke or two to tell everyone. That is how he would start off the auction. Getting everyone in the mood.

Not only was he a very good auctioneer, he was a very dear friend to all of us in the Fire Company. Ron has done our auction for 14 years. He helped us make lots of money over the years, which was very much needed to keep the Volunteer Fire Company going. He will be missed very much by all of us. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ron's wife Cathy and family. We will remember him always.

There will still be an auction on August 11, 2007, at 10:00 AM. We are currently looking for an auctioneer who can fill Ron's shoes. When you are spring cleaning, remember don't throw out items that people might be able to use. Donate them to the Windham Volunteer Fire Company.

Windham Regional News

Coolidge Connector might be expanded

by Heath Boyer

Velco and CVPS have announced they are exploring the possibility of expanding the three-strand power line that runs through Windham on its way from Vernon to Rutland.

We are most likely to be aware of this right-of-way, called the Coolidge Connector, when we pass under it on our way to Grafton, via Route 121 or to Chester via Route 11. Most of the portion that crosses Windham runs through the Meadowsend woodlands to the east of town.

The two utilities have held a number of informational meetings with locals from all the affected towns and have recently notified the authorities formally of their intention to file an application for a Certificate of Public Good with the Public Service Board.

They already own the right of way, but because the project will require clearing an addition 90 feet of vegetation to the west of the existing lines, the applicants must go through the full permitting process.

These power lines carry 345 kilovolts -- that's 345,000 volts -- of power from Vermont Yankee into a switching station at Coolidge where it is redirected into central and northern Vermont, as well as New Hampshire and New York State. In the event VY is not running for any reason, these same lines carry power generated from other sources into

this part of the system. This stretch of high tension lines is also part of the Southern Loop, the very important line running from Brattleboro to Bennington by way of Rutland. The expansion lines will run parallel to the existing line and will also carry 345 kv.

The project is stimulated by several factors, and although its eventual approval is not absolutely certain, at this point there seems to be general agreement that the work needs to be done.

In part, the project is a result of the power blackout of August 2003, the largest in U.S. history. Ten million homes were affected, and the subsequent investigation revealed major weaknesses in the reliability systems that are supposed to protect the electricity grid from disruption. The federal government mandated new reliability standards for all utilities.

Another major contributor to the need for the project is the growing demand for electric power in the region. Although Vermont uses only four or five percent of the electricity consumed in New England, we still have to insure that the growth of our peak demand levels can be met.

A third factor is the need to upgrade and refurbish a 30-year-old piece of infrastructure, so critical to the region that it cannot even be taken out of service for regular maintenance.

The power companies are exploring alternatives to construction of the line, but are proceeding with their application now so they can begin construction in a timely fashion if the need is confirmed. The goal is to have the project in service by late 2010.

The preliminary filing documents contain aerial photos of the existing line and the proposed expansion and are available at the Town Office. There will also be more public meetings and presentations so residents can be more fully informed about both the need and the construction plan for the project.



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

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Send to address below.

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Acknowledgments

Thanks to all who provided
articles. Their names are
noted with their submissions.

Submissions

Windham News & Notes
welcomes submissions.

Send articles of around 300
words to the address below.
We prefer emailed submissions.

Next deadline
August 10, 2007

Windham News & Notes
5976 Windham Hill Rd.
Windham, VT 05359
802-875-4874
wnandn@vermontel.net

John Malone is remembered

We regret to report that John Stowell Malone has passed away unexpectedly. John organized the Stowell family reunions in Windham and was here over Memorial Day weekend for his family's gathering. John lived in North Carolina and was a great cook. He owned restaurants and bed and breakfasts and will be remembered for his outgoing and upbeat personality. We send our condolences to the Stowell Family.

It's time for Summer Camp!

Billie Jean VanAlsyne, camp director

Summer Camp at the Windham Meeting House will start Monday, July 9, and will run for three weeks. Camp begins at 9:00 AM and ends at 1:00 PM except Fridays. Fridays' pick-up time is 12:30.

I am planning a few field trips this year, and I am looking for people to help transport the children. Also, instead of snack everyday we will be preparing a small lunch with the help of the kids. I am having a theme each year, and this year it will be "Native American." If anyone has any ideas or crafts that relate, please let me know.

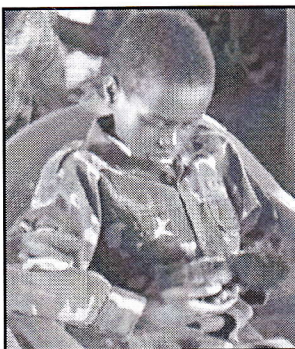
There will be a few scholarships available for those who can't afford the tuition. If you need a scholarship please let me know by July 1. I look forward to seeing all you kids at camp. My number is 875-1709.

Thanks for summer camp donors

by Billie Jean VanAlstyne

I would like to thank the following businesses for their donations to our fund-raising spaghetti supper which was held in May. Donations to support summer camp were made by Homestead Landscaping, Lisai's Market, Erskine's, Green Mt. Pharmacy, Londonderry Hardware, Chester Flowers, Clark's IGA, B&B Mini Mart, Glebe Mountain, and Grafton Village Cheese. I would also like to thank everyone who helped set-up, cook and serve. We made over \$400 for summer camp.

My own doll.... WCO members and others in Windham provide support for the organization CHABHA, which helps children in Africa who have lost their parents due to AIDS. Many knitted dolls were made by Windham women for the children, as so many of these kids have no toys, let alone most of what we consider to be necessities. In this photo, one girl cherishes her Windham-made gift. For more about CHABHA, go to www.chabha.org.



Camp director, Billie VanAlsyne is surrounded by smiling children from last year's Summer Camp. All kids are invited to join the fun!

Windham Library offers new activities

by Beverly Carmichael

With another busy summer ahead of us, it's time for all of us to pencil things onto our calendars. The Windham Library will continue its winter hours plus add a 6:30-8:30 evening for our children to continue working on their reading skills over the summer.

The library will be open Tuesday evenings starting July 31 after their summer camp program ends. We will offer a movie and popcorn directly following our book sign-out and return hour.

We are currently striving to catalog our books with the help of a grant received from the Stratton Foundation. This grant will allow us to join the State of Vermont's inter-library loan program. In the foreseeable future, all books that are in the state's system will be available to our library.

We would like to thank the Stratton Foundation for their generous help in accomplishing this goal. We would also like to thank Ann Garrett and Lydia Pope France for their help in writing this grant.

Writers wanted

The writing group that meets on Wednesday afternoons at the Meeting House is seeking new members. Beginners and published writers of poetry or prose are welcome. Call Carolyn Chase at 802-864-4039 for further information.



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Mr. P-J expresses his gratitude

Dear Windham Community Members,
Even though it is almost impossible, I would like to try and express my feelings about the response of this community towards me and to my unfortunate set of circumstances over the past months. If there were some other way of better expressing my gratitude and humility towards this outpouring of kindness, then I would have done it. Unfortunately, this is the best way I could come up with to try and get across how honored I am to have experienced this heart-warming and extremely generous response.

As most of you know, on Christmas Eve of this year I experienced the first of my two accidents that would forever change my life. This accident consisted of my tripping over the slide that is a part of my four children's play-scape in my backyard. I was rushed in the ambulance to Dartmouth Medical Center where they performed emergency surgery, on Christmas morning no less, on my right arm. This involved my receiving two metal plates, one on each bone, and a total of 12 screws. The recovery time for this injury caused me to miss about six weeks of school.

As if this was not enough for one year, on April 20, I was working with my wife on our 200-year-old house when a joist gave way, and I was sent down to the first floor without warning. Of this moment I have no recollection. The last memory I have was sweeping the floor in our kitchen about ten minutes before this accident occurred. Thankfully, I have no memory of the next 36 to 48 hours. The recount of this time frame is from my wife's memory.

After falling to the floor, I began a series of seizures that lasted about two or three minutes. My wife tried to remain calm as she talked me into a more responsive state and awaited the arrival of the ambulance. Upon arrival to our house, the ambulance took me to Springfield Hospital where they proceeded to board me onto the "Dart," the Dartmouth Medical Center emergency helicopter, and flew me to Dartmouth. I was diagnosed with brain trauma/concussion, two broken arms this time, broken/bruised ribs, and a deep contusion of my right thigh. This again caused me to miss another few weeks of school.

This is where the Windham community stepped in to take charge! Without waiting around for anything,

this amazing community pulled together and had a wonderful dinner/dance to raise money to help my family and me. There were no thoughts of waiting around to see what the outcome would be; there was no delay in thinking maybe it won't be that bad. The people of this community acted without thoughts of their own lives and responded in a way that was selfless, generous, and just plain extraordinary. The emotions that I felt as I heard about this response are beyond words. My heart swells every time I tell this story or recount these events. The impressive amount of money that was raised served to help us in many areas that would have otherwise caused great financial stress.

The reaction of this community to my family's hardships over the past months is worthy of recognition in a movie or novel. It is the type of response I would not have believed in when I was living in Connecticut. Yet, here I am feeling more appreciated than I have ever felt in my entire life.

One last time I want to offer my most sincere thank you to this community for showing me how much a part of it I have become.

Thankfully yours,

Mickey Parker-Jennings

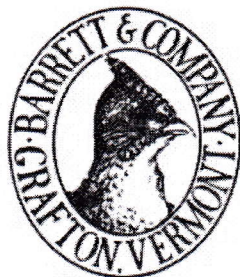
(4-6 grade teacher at Windham Elementary)



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Town honors Helen George

by Imme Maurath

On June 10, Helen George was honored at a potluck dinner at the Meeting House. Helen's many years of service to the town were recognized, including 30 years on the select board. Helen was the first woman to serve in that capacity. Walter Woodruff pointed out that although Helen has retired from the select board, she continues to serve us all in other areas.

About 50 people attended and signed a quilted pillow made by Mary Boyer and Bev Carmichael that was then presented to Helen. In the photograph here, Helen's grandson, Hunter Peters, watches as Helen opens the package with the pillow. Postcards were mailed out in late May inviting everyone in town to this event.



It is not what we see and touch or that which others do for us which makes us happy; it is that which we think and feel and do, first for the other fellow and then for ourselves.

-- Helen Keller

Conservation is easy, let's do our vital part

by Imme Maurath

The Londonderry Recycling Center has now made it easier to recycle the paper portion of your recycling.

You no longer need to separate magazines, paper, chip board (they now take the white stuff too), egg cartons, or junk mail. They can all go in one bag (paper please) and dumped in the container. And guess what? no more tearing those little plastic windows from envelopes. Yeah! They do ask that you keep newspapers separate, as farmers still collect these and shred them for the cows.

Did you know that 1 million plastic bags are used per minute in this world? Let's start using those canvas bags, and we in Windham can start a trend. Or reuse brown paper at the IGA and get a 5 cent refund, over and over again.

Did you know that heating and cooling in your home draws the most energy? How about hanging your laundry outside? Or using a small toaster oven for heating a casserole for four? Anyone ever use a pressure cooker? I can cook my brown rice in 15 minutes as opposed to 45.

Let's start getting creative on how we can all do our small part. Call me, Imme Maurath, if you have any suggestions for our next newsletter. My number is 875-1709.

Green-up Day a huge success, Connecticut girl scout digs in

by Ginny Crittenden, Windham Conservation Commission

Letti Denoya, 14, is not a newcomer to community projects. She read in the *News and Notes* about Windham's Green-Up Day and said, "Let's go!"

Her family has property in North Windham and has come to events at the Meeting House, but most of those involved only eating and dancing; Letti wanted more.

Her parents, who live in Groton, CT, and come from Argentina, encourage their children to work hard and to think about how their skills can help communities. So does her Girl Scout troupe. So off Letti went last May 5, bag in hand, to clean up Windham's roadsides.

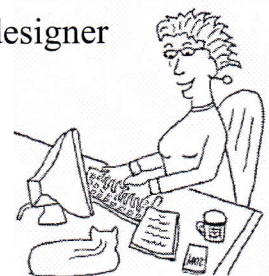
Many families joined her: Garrett, Boyer, Clinton, Ires, Bailes, Shifflette, Crittenden, Goodband, McCoy/Simonds, Bower, Partridge, Koutrakos, and several more who greened up Windham at different times.

Many, many thanks to all, and especially to our road crew, Rodney and Bill, who hauled away 32 green bags of roadside trash.

writer, editor, layout designer

Mary McCoy

ghost writing, marketing,
newsletters, family histories,
funding appeals, manuals,
scripts, speeches, web text



mary@windhamcountryhouse.com 802-874-4789

Windham students learn potato farming

by Sally Newton

Students at the Windham School had a wonderful experience this spring. Susan Persa, daughter of Ed and Mary LeMay, invited us to her farm in South Windham to plant potatoes. Her parents had grown large quantities of potatoes there in the 1940's. There was also an even larger potato farm in Windham, on the land that is now the Tater Hill Country Club. Susan thought it would be one way for the children to learn about the history of the town.

We applied for, and received, a grant from the "Strolling of the Heifers" to help with expenses. The staff at the school worked with Susan and her neighbor, Milford Chase, to plan our day at the farm. Milford, who used to work on her father's farm, had a wealth of information about growing things that he was more than willing to share it with us.

In school we spent some time looking at old photographs and discussing the potato farms. We examined seed potatoes and talked about how potatoes are grown. We put some in the grow lab so we could watch the eyes sprout and turn green.

Potato planting day turned out to be a hot one. We arrived at the farm before lunch to find Milford, Susan, and Lyndon and Sandra Corriview ready for a busy planting session. We ate lunch in the shade by the potato field. Half the group then started on the planting process, while the other half had a tour of the farm, to see the old potato storage barn, other barns, old tools and the animals. Each child had a little booklet with places to draw the things they saw and questions to get them thinking.

Milford was in charge of the planting. He showed us how to cut the potatoes up, so there would be eyes on each piece, prepare the furrows, put in the fertilizer, place the potatoes in the ground and cover them up. The garden had

been plowed and harrowed beforehand, but the kids got to do plenty of hard work dragging the row marker and making the furrows with a hoe or little plow. After about 45 minutes the groups switched activities.

It was an incredible day. There was no complaining in spite of the heat and the black flies. The children were

interested in the farm and the potato planting. They listened and they worked hard, putting almost 100 pounds of potatoes into the ground. After the planting was done we had time to walk out to see the big fields where the potatoes used to be planted and to visit a beaver dam.

We are planning several potato hoeing sessions over the summer. After we harvest our crop in the fall, we will have a community dinner, during which the children will share some of what they learned with parents and neighbors.

Windham School students now know how to plant potatoes. At the height of potato farming in Windham, children would get out of school to help with planting and harvesting. Our students now have an idea of what that would be like. We are extremely grateful to Susan, Milford, Lyndon and Sandra for their willingness to share their time and knowledge with us.



Younger students describe their day....



Row marker

by Jake Ires

Really heavy
Pull it, tug it
Across the field
Owen and Jake
Working in the dirt
Making furrows
For the potatoes

Potato

by Anna Lehmann

Potato, potato, in the garden.
Potato, potato, in the dirt.
Potato, potato, with a worm.

Potato Planting

by Kit Blazej

Huge potato field,
Mark the rows,
Put in piles of fertilizer.
Plant the potatoes,
See the animals,
Have some fun!

Potato Planting

by Joel Emmons

Hoeing the garden,
Plowing the garden,
Having fun in the sun.
Fertilizing the garden,
Putting the potatoes in the garden,
And then they come up.

Farm Animals

by Rheanna Pare

Sheep walking.
Horses walking.
Cows walking.
Roosters walking.
Chickens walking.

A Good Day

by Patrick McDonald

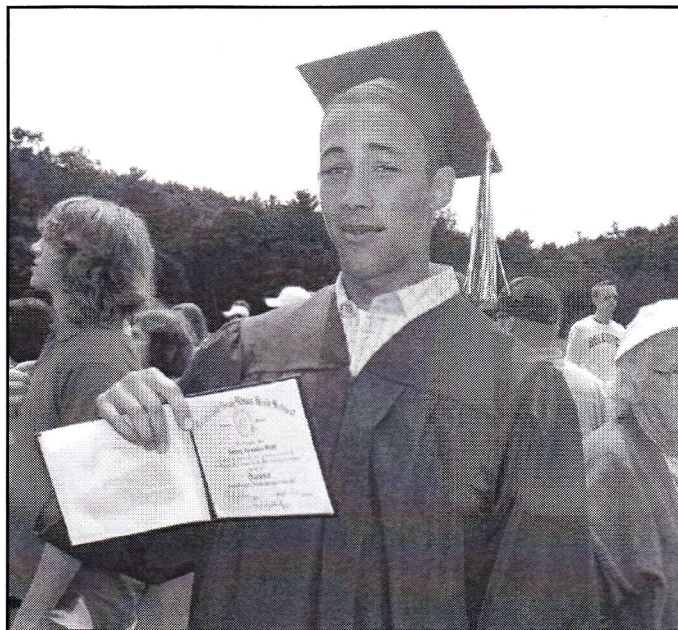
The field was big.
The sun was hot.
We planted lots of potatoes.
I was happy.

Three young Windham men head for new adventures

The graduating students from Windham Elementary School are Jesse Newton (*left*) and Tyler Beebe (*right*). We wish them the best of luck at Leland & Gray!



Zach Scott (*far right*) has graduated from Leland & Gray Union High School. He will be attending Johnson and Wales Criminal Justice College in Providence, Rhode Island, majoring in Juvenile Justice. It is a four-year program. Zach attended Upward Bound for two summers in a row to better prepare himself for college. Besides being an excellent student at L&G, he has been an all-star baseball player in the position of pitcher. Congratulations, Zach!



Congregational Church hosts services, events

by Nancy Dyke

Memorial Service

Community and church members gathered at the Meeting House on May 27 to commemorate those who have passed on before us. Rain prevented us from meeting in the cemetery as planned, but it was a particularly meaningful service. A number of those present talked about individuals, now gone, who made a positive impact on their lives.

Members of the Stowell family were present and read a letter written to the family on October 17, 1923, by a former pastor of Windham Congregational Church, the Rev. Lawrence Comey, on the occasion of the accidental death of a sixteen-year-old son. Al-

so, Carolyn Partridge read the names of servicemen from Vermont who have been killed in Iraq. David Crittenden, with his guitar, led the group in songs.

Ice Cream Social

Ice cream cones and make-your-own sundaes brought a number of community members to the Meeting House on the evening of May 27. It was a perfect event for ice-cream lovers in spite of the rain, and those who attended reported a great time! Proceeds were given to the Summer Day Camp.

Old Home Day

Old and new friends are heartily invited to attend Old Home Day at Wind-

ham Congregational Church on August 19. Margaret Woodruff, retired pastor, and Nancy Dyke will be leading the service. Special music is planned and some former pastors will be attending. Following the service a brunch will be served. We welcome all our friends!

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Jenny Newton returns from China trip with Journey East

by Mary Boyer

Jenny had so many exciting experiences in China on her trip with Journey East that her words about it tumble out in a struggle to keep up with her nimble mind. After a 13-hour flight without the benefit of in-flight films, the group arrived in Beijing. The city is in major reconstruction to prepare for the 2012 Olympics. Even their hotel lobby looked like a demolition zone.

The first item on their sightseeing tour was the Great Wall. She was unprepared for its immensity. "As far as the eye can see, there is more wall." Next they went to the Gobi Desert. To her, its brown rolling sand hills and crystal blue skies also seemed to go on forever. It was here she rode the camel she affectionately nicknamed "Fluffernutter".

Jenny's first experience bargaining with a vendor was a disaster. When she realized just how badly she had been ripped off, she immediately took charge. She admits she came home with lots of gifts for family and friends that she got for a good price!

Tom Connor originated Journey East and has attended every trip. With Tom's encouragement to eat as the Chinese do, all the students became adept at using chopsticks. Jenny enthusiastically insists that authentic Chinese food is much

richer with denser and more intense flavors than the Americanized version.

Jenny's greatest surprise was how much the Chinese loved the Leland and Gray students. During performances, they were treated as if they were rock stars. After only a few hours of getting to know one another, Chinese and American students would be seen walking down the street hand in hand.

The last two weeks were spent at the University of Inner Mongolia at Hohut. Collaborating students from very divergent cultures taught each their songs and dances and performed together. Jenny had a very happy reunion with the two students who last year stayed with her family here in Windham. In Hohut, she and Tom Connor and another student were hosted for dinner by a family. Dinner led to sharing stories and singing songs accompanied by the flute. When it was time to leave their host sent for her brother-in-law, a local official, to give them a ride back to the hotel—in a police car with lights flashing and sirens screaming!

She could scarcely believe it when the trip was coming to an end. After teary goodbyes to the two special students and so many other new friends, it was back to Beijing. This time the hotel lobby was beautifully finished. A huge change from just one month earlier. China is on the move.

But this was a serious academic adventure. Jenny had to prepare a 15-minute speech for the student body at L&G. She was assigned the very broad topic of Reeducation during the Cultural Revolution. Mr. Connor said this was a real challenge for Jenny, but she worked hard to assimilate and make sense of a mountain of information. He added that her eagerness to learn new things and have new experiences is why she was chosen to represent all of us in the first place. He couldn't resist adding, by the way, that she was the youngest traveler in the group.

Jenny has over 1,000 pictures to remind her of the wealth of her experience. She talks of wanting to do more traveling, perhaps a semester abroad. There is "so much to see in the world." Her voice softens, "but it was the interactions with people that I appreciate the most about my Journey East."

Valley Bible Church invites you

by Mark Griffin

Vacation Bible School starts July 16

Coming soon to South Windham -- Rescue Zone! Join the action at Valley Bible Church, South Windham, for exciting Bible stories, crafts, games, puppets, skits, snacks, and prizes. Bring your friends ages 4-13 and join us each day July 16-20 from 9:30 to noon. For further information, call 874-7267, or visit our website: www.valleybibleVT.com.

Regular services continue

Sunday School 10:00 AM; Worship 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM

Thursday Evening Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7:00



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Let my passion free you to follow yours

Mary Boyer fires, readies, aims

by Mary McCoy

Growing up on the Jersey Shore, Mary Boyer must have been one of those kids who runs full speed into the waves, completely immersing herself while others slowly ease into the water. A resident of Windham for less than three years, Mary is both president of the Windham Community Organization and the newly elected member of our select board.

Her ability to quickly take the plunge comes not from an impulsive nature, but rather from a desire to be fully involved and from knowing she can handle whatever comes her way. Her husband, Heath, describes her approach to life by saying she is one to "fire, ready, and aim."

When her first marriage ended in 1974, Mary had to help support herself and her three children. She taught sewing for a while, then began her own business making sports uniforms for local schools. Funds were tight, and there were a few setbacks, like the time the inexpensive thread she used on a swim team's bathing suits dissolved in the chlorine water. But Mary knows everyone makes mistakes. She re-stitched and moved on.

When Mary went to college in the 60's, she had wanted to major in psychology, but her father would not allow it. Majoring instead in history, she retained her interest in understanding and assisting others. So in 1981, she took another plunge and followed her dream. She sold her home, moved herself and the kids to Philadelphia, and pursued a master's degree in counseling from Temple University.

With degree in hand, she worked for a hospital, then moved into private practice. A connection led to an offer from Johnson & Johnson to provide counseling and team-building for their top executives. This first major contract demanded a lot of her and paid very well accordingly. Undaunted, Mary dove into it in her typical fashion, developing a new model for executive development and initiating a successful career addressing corporate personnel challenges.

By the early 90's, Mary was contented with her life as a single woman, until she attended a conference and met Heath Boyer. "It was love at first sight," Mary says. Before the conference was over, they knew they wanted to marry. Heath was transferred from Atlanta to Philadelphia, and they tied the knot. It was a small ceremony but certainly not without drama, taking place during the worst ice storm in a century.

Heath was an avid sailor who renovated an old sailboat when he retired in 1997. He eagerly shared his love for

sailing with Mary. She says, "The first time the wind filled our sails, I was a goner." When the boat was finished, Mary retired too, and they made the boat their home and the Chesapeake Bay their backyard.

Before long the love for adventure took hold. They headed for the Caribbean, only to be hit by Hurricane Mitch with wind gusts up to 85 mph. After a year in the Caribbean, they set sail across the Atlantic, experiencing the opposite of the previous year – no wind. It took 38 days to reach Spain, more than twice the usual crossing time. There were days when their boat sat still in the ocean. They read a lot and took turns cooling themselves in the ocean. One would swim, while the other watched for sharks.

After two years in Europe, they returned to the States. Mary longed for land-based activities – gardening, home-making, family. Her parents were elderly, and grandchildren had been born while they were away. There were 13 total between Mary's and Heath's offspring.

While they were away, Mary's daughter in Vermont managed their affairs. Mary & Heath loved the landscape and culture here, and looked for a home in

Vermont. When they saw the former Stowell home and grocery store on Windham Hill Road, they immediately knew it was for them, and in January 2005, they moved in.

They quickly got involved in Windham activities. Mary became a part of the book group and the knitting group that meet on Wednesdays at the library. She took an active role in challenging the installation of wind turbines here. She also got involved with the Windham Community Organization, the Windham News & Notes, and the Strong Living exercise classes, which she now co-leads.

Mary says, "I spent most of my life in big cities, and there are far fewer stressors here – no one in Windham needs counseling! But I wanted to help, to contribute however I could."

Mary says it is hard to follow Helen George on the select board, as Helen has been so important to the community for so many years. "I've no history here, so I have a steep learning curve. It's like going back to school, learning about Vermont and the democratic processes here. But it feels right. Since my first town meeting, I was a convert to the Vermont's ways of doing things."

Mary feels her conversion has been greatly helped by her ability to listen, and sailing taught her to accept things,

(continued next page)



Boarders enjoyed summer in our area

by Margaret Woodruff

How does this sound as a summer vacation? The railway came to Vermont in 1852 and brought clientele, thanks to railroad advertisements.

This was their ad: "Mountain View Farm, purchase ticket to West Townshend, Vermont, and ask conductor to let you out at Eddy's Crossing - farm is on a dirt road with croquet on the lawn. Single telephone line to outside world. Accommodates 20. Terms \$6 to \$7 per week." (Source: Vermont Album, Steven Greene Press, 1974)

What a bargain! One dollar or less per day for all meals, rooms, and some planned activity. Even in those days, I don't know how they could do it. The one saving grace, I believe, is that it was a good-sized general farm, so milk, eggs, vegetables, fruit and probably some meat would have been home grown and plentiful.

Still, in those days before electric refrigerators, washers, dish washers, and vacuums, you would have to hire extra help to do all the necessary work. It doesn't sound like a big money maker to me.

While the railway came to Vermont in 1852, the railway station in East Jamaica wasn't built until 1880. There was a station in West Townshend also. The facts in the ad -- letting these guests off at Eddy's crossing -- suggest that the stations were not built yet. These prices existed from the late

Mary Boyer fires, readies, aims

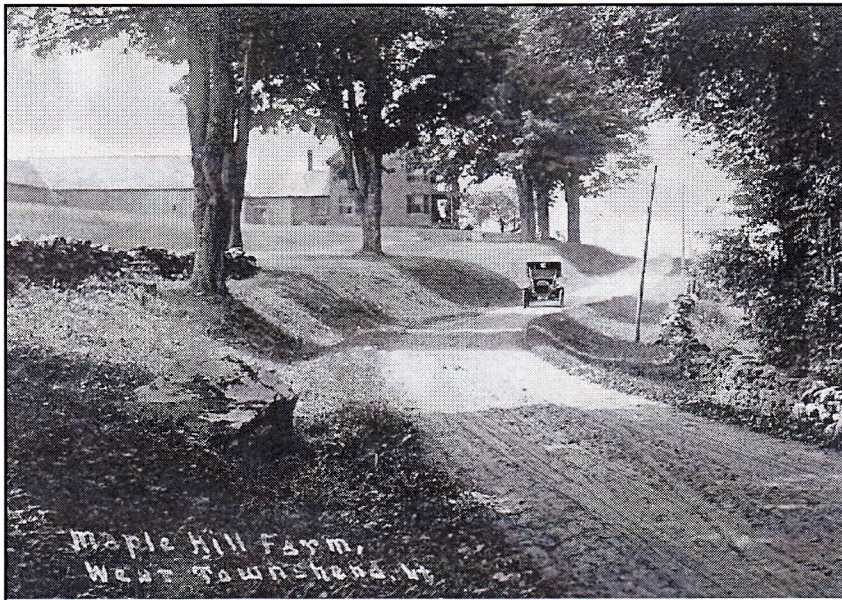
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like bad weather and no wind. "You have to be adaptable and spontaneous when things change, as well as patient and tenacious when things are stuck."

Mary appreciates that the people of Windham have been open to her as a newcomer. "It's the best of all worlds," she says, "when new blood is accepted and respected, and the new blood accepts and respects what's there. I value the traditions in place here -- helping one's neighbors, being physically active, and enjoying the sense of informality."

In her new leadership roles with WCO and the select board, Mary hopes to close gaps between people. "My life has been dedicated to communication, helping people connect and exchange. We need to be generous with each other, coming together when we agree and accepting our disagreements when they arise. We're all only human, bound to make mistakes."

As one who fires before she aims, Mary knows she'll make mistakes. "Just let me know," she asks of all of us, "so I can make a course correction and reset my sails."



The Mountain View Farm operated under different names during its lifetime, including Maple Hill Farm.

1800's to early 1900's. The farm was completely destroyed by fire in 1923. This farm existed about one-eighth of a mile below my house, on the left.

When I first started grade school in the very early 1930's, there were two places in South Windham village and one in Windham that still had summer boarders. I have no way of knowing what rates were charged. I don't recall them coming on the railway, as automobiles were in use by then.

I will continue this topic in the future as I want to do some more research on the stage coaches. I know of at least one in Windham, but there may have been more.

So long for now,
Margaret Woodruff

12-spotted skimmer This dragonfly was photographed last summer by Lydia Pope France. Dragonflies spend the first part of their lives in the water, as egg and larvae, before emerging as adults. This adult hung out at the France house for a few days. Since adult dragonflies live for only a few months, that was a long visit!





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the address above or preferably by
email to wnandn@vermontel.net

GET INVOLVED IN WINDHAM!

~ Windham Community Calendar ~

Every Sunday - **Windham Congregational Church (UCC)**
has worship services at 9:30 AM; everyone invited.

Every Sunday and Thursday - **Valley Bible Church** has
services. (*see page 9*)

Every Wednesday - **Windham Town Library** at Meeting
House, 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Also at that time: reading group
first Weds, quilting class second Weds, writing group third
Weds, and knitting group fourth Weds. (*see also page 4*)

Wednesday, July 4 - **4th of July Get-together** at Meeting
House at 4:00 PM (*see page 2*)

Thursday, July 5 - **Windham Planning Commission** meets
at 7:00 PM at Town Office; public is invited.

Monday - Friday, July 9 - 27 - **Summer Camp** (*see pg. 4*)

Monday, July 9 - **Select Board** meets at 6:30 PM at the
Town Office; public invited

Monday-Friday, July 16-20 - **Valley Bible School** (*see
page 9*)

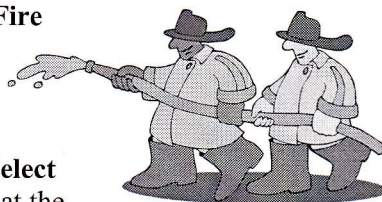
Wednesday, July 18 - **Brown Bag Chat Group** at noon at
the Meeting House.

Monday, July 23 - **Select Board** meets at 6:30 PM at the
Town Office; public invited.

Wednesday, July 25 - **Windham Community Organiza-
tion** meets at 7:00 PM at Meeting House

Saturday, July 28 - **WCO's Annual Chicken BBQ** at 5:00
PM (*see page 1*)

Saturday, August 11 - **Fire
Company's Auction
and BBQ** starts at 10:00
AM (*see page 2*)



Monday, August 13 - **Select
Board** meets at 6:30 PM at the
Town Office; public invited.

Wednesday, August 15 - **Brown Bag Chat Group** meets at
noon at Meeting House.

Monday, August 27 - **Select Board** meets at 6:30 PM at the
Town Office; public invited.

Wednesday, August 29 - **Windham Community Organi-
zation** at 7:00 PM at Meeting House.