



Windham News & Notes

Volume VIII, Issue V

Mar/Apr 2011

Some Highlights of the Coming Town Meeting *by Edith Serke*

As we all know, the annual Town Meeting in Vermont is the first Tuesday in March, **which this year is March 1**. It will take place at the Meeting House starting at 10 a.m. By now you should have received a copy of the 2010 Town Report, with all the details. Please read it carefully and bring it to the Town Meeting, along with a dish to share at lunch time and a dollar for paper goods, etc. We look forward to a productive meeting. All Windham residents on the voter checklist are eligible to vote, and are encouraged to attend.

A number of current office holders' term of office will expire this March and they are eligible for another term. No current office holders are known to wish to retire, but anyone can challenge them for the position. Look at your Town Report to see whose term expires in 2011. You will note that the format of the Town Report is much more streamlined and user friendly. This year there are only 10 articles to vote on which should greatly reduce the amount of time spent at Town Meeting. The biggest change is that all requests from social service agencies have been treated as one. The only change from last year is a request from the Council on Aging for Southeastern VT from \$200 to \$500. With the number of older persons increasing and federal and state funding decreasing, it is a reasonable request.

The Town highway budget is the same as last year, i.e. \$370,000. The Library budget is going up from \$500 to \$1,500. The Public Officials and Liability insurance line item has decreased from \$5,575 to \$2,771. There is a line item of \$2,000 for the County Sheriff, who was paid \$1,639 last year. The telephone budget went down from \$2,502 to \$1500. Other new items are \$750 for a service contract for the generator, \$400 for Broadband and \$500 for the copier. The budget for computer programs has gone up from \$200 to \$500.

Total to be raised in taxes for the General Account is \$171,082.88. Last year it was \$158,479.95 after a couple of reductions and adjustments. Overall the Town of Windham appears to manage its fiscal responsibilities frugally. Our total assets went from \$955,796.26 on 12/31/2009 to \$992,819.77 on 12/31/2010.

State Rep Obuchowski Assumes Position in Shumlin Administration *by Edith Serke*

Michael Obuchowski, Obie to his friends, will no longer represent Windham in the state legislature. He was asked by Governor Peter Shumlin to become commissioner of the Department of Buildings and General Services in January. Obie was the longest serving state legislator, having served our district since 1973. In his new position, he will oversee the department of more than 350 people and will be responsible for the construction, renovation, maintenance and security of state buildings and grounds as well as the state's vehicle fleet.

Obuchowski was replaced by 30 year old Matthew Trieber, a select board member from Rockingham. He lives at 82 Atkinson Street in Bellows Falls.

Obie was well known to Windham residents, as he regularly visited our town meetings, chicken barbeques, and other community events. We thank him for his years of dedicated service and will miss him. We wish him well in his new position. We also look forward to meeting Matt Trieber at our March 1st Town Meeting.

Select Board News

The Select Board has spent most of it's time the last few months preparing for Town Meeting. We hope you will be pleased with the changes to our reporting format and the shortening of the number of Articles. You should have received your packet by now with your Town Report and a pamphlet about how and why to read it enclosed. Please give it at least some of your time before the meeting and don't forget to bring your copy on March 1st.

Michael Simonds has resigned from the Windham Planning Commission and will be serving as the Windham Zoning Officer. As new zoning regulations are developed to comply with our Town Plan it is more appropriate that the responsibility of enforcing the Regulations be independent from the committee that writes them. We appreciate Michael's willingness to fill this important function. His empty chair will be filled by Michael Bober who has been attending commission meetings regularly since he moved into the old "Burns" house several years ago.

Other appointments are made at the first Select Board Meeting after Town Meeting which this year will be March 7th. Anyone wishing to serve in an appointed position please let Carol or one of us know. If you have an interest but are uncertain, Carol has information on all positions at the office. She will be happy to help you make an informed decision.

We look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting and lunch on Tuesday, March 1st.

Mary Boyer, Walt Woodruff, Margaret Dwyer

Library News *by Beverly Carmichael*

Another year and more books to be read. Will there ever be enough time? New books added to the stacks this month include:

"Unbroken: A World War 11 Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption" by Laura Hillenbrand

"Cutting for Stone" by Abraham Verghese

"The Finkler Question (Man Booker Prize) by Howard Jacobson

"Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" by Jamie Ford

"Room – A Novel" by Emma Donoghue

"Nocturn" by Syrie James

"The Knitters Year: 52 Make-in-a-Week Projects, Quick Gifts and Seasonal Knits" by Debbie Bliss

Our book club continues to meet on the first Wednesday of every month and next month's book and discussion will be "The Finkler Question," by Howard Jacobson. "The Finkler Question" is a funny, furious, unflinching novel of friendship and loss, exclusion and belonging, and the wisdom and humanity of maturity. Please read along with us and join in our lively discussion.

Our library is open every Wednesday from 3 – 5 pm. Please stop by.

Trustee Position Available

The Windham Library has five trustee positions and this year we have a position open. If anyone is interested in filling this position, please contact Cynthia Kehoe at 874-7028 or Gail Wyman at 875-4749.

We, your Trustees and the town, would like to thank Maureen Fitch for her faithful service for many years. We wish her well in all of her new endeavors.



The Windham News and Notes thanks Bev Carmichael for submitting articles as she recuperates from knee surgery. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

There is help with winter bills *by Edith Serke*

This has been a very tough winter so far, and we're only about half way through. Many of us have used up our fuel budgets and may be at risk of being cold for the next month or two. The Windham Community Organization has some assistance available to help with fuel, other utility costs, or even food. We have donated funds to the VT Food Bank and the Londonderry Food Bank during the past month or two. If you are strapped and need assistance, call one of the members of our Good Neighbor Committee: Mary Boyer at 875-5242 or Leila Erhardt at 874-4492. Requests for assistance can also be made in writing to WCO, 5976 Windham Hill Road, Windham, VT 05359.

The Windham Community organization will have its annual meeting on March 30, at 7:00 p.m. at the Meeting House. All are welcome. **We are always looking for new members, male or female, who would like to actively participate in the Windham community.** There are no dues, only a commitment to help make this an even better community. Can you help with the Annual Chicken BBQ or the Annual Harvest Supper? Would you be willing to visit and/or assist our local shut-ins somehow? Help us with producing the Windham News and Notes? Or, just come and meet your fellow Windham residents. To learn more about the WCO, please call me, Edith Serke, President, at 874-4812. We welcome full time or part time residents.

Holiday Generosity *by Mary Boyer*

WOW! We have been residents of Windham for seventeen years and were unaware of the Windham Community Organization. We are so glad to learn there is a process available to us to fund some assistance directly into our town, be it heating assistance, groceries, or funds for fuel we are glad to be able to help. We hope you will include this in one of your issues to spread the word to others who may be in need that a resource is available. And to those who are able to contribute, to encourage them to direct their donations through the town offices, to the WCO. We are sure all donations either large or small will be put to good use directly in our community. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Clause

Prior to Christmas the WCO was contacted by a resident couple who had been making donations at Christmas to their fuel company but wondered if there was a way to give help directly to a Windham family or families. They were referred to the WCO which acted as a conduit for their generosity. Three families in Windham received a surprise Christmas gift. In each case the gift solved an immediate and pressing problem.

Americans, and Vermonters in particular, it seems are very generous. A Letter to the Editor of the Reformer on January 12th acknowledged the huge outpouring in response to the Christmas Stocking appeal. Over \$90,000 was raised which is an average of \$11.74 per Reformer subscribing family. To the statisticians among us this amount is double that taken in by similar campaigns conducted in the nation's newspapers.

When giving to charities many of us experience a disconnect between our gift and the recipient(s). In some cases people stop giving in the belief their money doesn't get to who they intend it for. If any of our readers want to find a vehicle to help your neighbors directly and privately we encourage you to consider a donation through the WCO. We are a volunteer organization and can pass your donation directly to a family here in town or the surrounding area. We give assistance in the form of food or gas coupons, heating assistance, and payment of doctor and telephone or other bills.

As a 501c(3), all donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows. If you want to make a donation or if you or someone you know needs assistance please contact Leila Erhardt at 874-4492 or me at 875-5242.



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

Is a publication of the Windham
Community Organization

Published six times a year

Send donations to address
below

THE WN&N TEAM

Dawn Bower

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Jean Coburn

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Mary McCoy

Gina Noel

Edith Serke

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all who provided arti-
cles. Their names are noted with
their submissions

Send articles of around 300
words to the address below. We
prefer emailed submissions to
windhamnews@hotmail.com

Next deadline

April 15, 2011

Roy Coburn may not be who you think he is *by Mary McCoy*

I was sure of two things when I went to interview Vermont native Roy Coburn. He is one the few people who runs a business in Windham, and he is a talker. I knew this from taking my lawn tractor to him for repair and having him tell me a great deal about mower blades. I thought he'd be an easy one to interview, full of information about running a successful business here. I wasn't expecting him to share the personal details of his life, but instead to be guarded, like many Yankees. In that regard, Roy surprised me.

Also known as Coby, Roy owns Country Living, the outdoor power tool shop on Abbott Road on the 60 acres where he has lived since 1980. Roy can trace his interest in small machines back to his high school days at Leland & Gray. A loner by nature, he became shy after puberty due to a bad case of acne, for which there was little treatment in those days. He concentrated on his college-bound courses and retreated to work on the machines in the school's shop.

Roy thought he wanted to be a geologist and was accepted at UVM. He only lasted two weeks before deciding college wasn't for him, leaving in time for his parents to get a full return of their money. This was during the War in Vietnam, and thinking he would be drafted, Roy enlisted in the Air Force. He had no patience for those who protested the war, seeing them as unpatriotic, a view that has since changed. He remains proud to be an American, but these days he says, "We can't settle all the world's problems. The money we spend on war could be better used for our highways, mass transit, green energy and the like."

While stationed for a while in Thailand, Roy met his wife of 38 years, Ao (pronounced Oh) at the massage parlor where she had begun work after growing up in rice country. After much paperwork and with the approval of his commander, they married and Ao was able to move to the U.S. The couple has two adult children, Roy Jr. and Jennifer who live in nearby towns.

After his service time was complete, Roy went to work with his father, Donald, who had a shop similar to the one Roy runs now. It was located on the northern end of Burbee Pond Road in the same location where he grew up and where his mother, Jean, still lives. Using his GI benefits to take night courses, Roy earned a B.S. in business administration. He knew working for a big business was not for him. "I'm too independent," he said. So he continued with his dad's shop. For a while, the Coburns were among the top 20 dealers in the three-state region for Stihl outdoor power tools.

By 1987, Roy decided he needed a change and accepted a traveling sales job with a manufacturer. After he gave two weeks notice, his father stopped speaking to him. The new job lasted three years. The manufacturer was unable to successfully compete with the more advanced technology of its European competitors, yet placed unattainable quotas for its sales people. "I figured I'd be fired," Roy said, "so I called and severed my employment."

A rough period followed. "I was out of work and depressed," Roy said. He read all he could about depression, joined a support group, and got help from the VA. Having quit his previous job, he was unable to collect unemployment. Fortunately, Ao had a steady job at the Vermont Country Store where she has worked since the early 1980s. Roy had a few odd jobs, then took a position at Biben's Ace Hardware in Springfield, followed by a job as a manager at Brown Equipment in Wilmington.

In June of 1996, Roy received a loan from the Small Business Administration to start Country Living. He explained, "I wanted to run my own business and do it my way. It's worked for me. I like having a home business. There's no rat race, no travel. I'm not on the clock with the stress from that. Freedom is more important than money. After expenses, I earn between \$12,000 and \$18,000 a year with the other benefits too." That might not seem attractive to young people, Roy adds, but they don't see the added benefits.

When Roy started Country Living, he advertised in the *Message* and conducted a mailing campaign. These efforts provided his initial customer base. Now he only advertises in the *News & Notes*. Because of his excellent skills, he has many repeat customers and new ones whose friends or neighbors have recommended him. Roy did not tell me that, but I know it from my own experience and from others who rely on him.

His business has changed over the years. He sells less equipment and fixes more now, due to the rise of big box stores like Home Depot. Since those stores deal in large quantities and in poorer quality equipment, they undercut Roy's prices. Yet most big box stores do not provide repairs, hoping people will pitch what is broken and buy new again. So although he has steady repair work, it is unfortunate for Roy that, as he puts it, "People will drive many miles to save a few dollars instead of buying local."

Roy is deeply rooted in our local area. Born in Grafton in 1949, he moved to Windham before entering elementary school. He is the second of five children. In addition to his mother, his sister Donna Beers also lives in Windham with her husband Donald. The Coburn kids attended the one-room school taught by Ruth Greeley. Roy was known as a child who only had to be told once. His parents were strict disciplinarians who did not spare the rod, a practice Roy rejected when he became a parent.

Windham's roads were much different then. Traffic on Burbee Pond Road was so rare that if the Coburn kids heard a car, they rushed to the window to see who it might be. During mud season, entire exhaust systems were seized and swallowed by the roads. In winter, one of the road crew drove the truck while another shoveled sand from the back. So little sand actually made it onto the road that people said the road crew used salt and pepper shakers. Roy rode home from school on his sled via the roads where the sand was not.

Roy also recalls that when he was a boy, people came to Windham from all over for rabbit hunting. "The trees had been pulped out a lot," he explained, "and it was an ideal habitat for rabbits." There were also many deer hunting camps here, which were bought by hippies in the 60s and 70s and turned into permanent homes. They were followed in the 80s and 90s by older, retired, and well off people.

Over the years, Roy has changed too. He is no longer withdrawn and shy, and he feels differently than he used to about many things. Besides what I've already mentioned, he has stopped hunting, not wanting to kill anything anymore, and he has become his own doctor, following the advice of his many health books.

Yet he describes himself simply: "I'm an ordinary Vermonter. I was raised to have common sense and to do the best with what I have." Like other Vermonters, he values his independence and cares deeply about his family. He also chops wood, gardens, and snowmobiles. But he seems to me to be far from ordinary. He is a unique person who is unafraid to take risks and break free of expectations.

Roy is looking forward to collecting social security in a few years, and he and Ao are thinking of spending their winters in Florida. "I'd like to see what it's like living there," he said. While we wish him well and know he will do what he will do, how will we get along without Coby? He not only provides and repairs our equipment, he reminds us all that life is a surprising adventure.

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Leland & Gray Union High School 2011-2012 Budget *by Diane Newton*

The Leland & Gray budget of \$6,328,984 is down \$2,892. The budget reflects reductions in some departments and increases in core academic areas. The administration built a nearly level funded budget that considers current economic realities, student enrollment, and student learning and performance.

The highlights with respect to the budget increases include the strengthening of the English, Math, Science and Social Studies departments. There are significant increases for teaching materials, textbooks and professional development in these four academic areas. These increases reflect the emphasis of our new Principal, Dr. Dorinne Dorfman, to raise student achievement at Leland and Gray.

The budget cuts include reducing individual instrumental music lessons, eliminating music theory class, reducing upper level French offerings and cutting Health classes by half. The rationale behind the reductions is low student enrollment in these classes. However, based on testimony the Board received from students, parents and teachers, low student enrollment in these courses does not necessarily reflect low student interest. Often, the problem is a scheduling conflict between core academic classes and, for example, music and foreign language courses.

The Board received compelling testimony from community members particularly concerned about the cuts to the music and foreign language programs. It was noted that Leland & Gray is known for the arts and for its international travel offerings, programs that attract tuition students. It was echoed by many that Leland and Gray is very fortunate to have a stellar music program that has taken years of dedication and hard work to achieve. The program engages students at all levels and provides extraordinary life-long opportunities that are very unusual to find at a small school like Leland & Gray.

The Board voted 6-4 to approve the budget. Following the vote, the Board unanimously passed a motion that funds received from the \$19 million in federal funding be used to restore program cuts. Preliminary information from the Department of Education indicates that Leland and Gray's portion may be \$78,000, enough to restore some but not all of the cuts. Many thanks to the Windham community for supporting the budget.

L&G SCHOOL BUDGET PASSES *By Edith Serke*

Despite the heavy snow on Wednesday, February 2, the Leland & Gray school budget for the coming year was passed with a comfortable margin of 156 votes in favor and 71 opposed. The vote was by Australian ballot in the participating towns. In Windham, of the 324 voters on the checklist, 30 people cast a ballot, including 30 absentee votes. Of these, 27 voted in favor, and 3 opposed. Of the 400 students, 17 are from Windham,



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From the Auditors.. *by Imme Maurath*

The Town Report got a facelift this year thanks to some changes in how the town will be reporting its finances. A new Balance Sheet was introduced to you last year. This year you will see a Treasurer's Report that will explain how the Town got from previous years' reporting to the present format. This is followed by the "four pager" that shows how each of the funds is now being redistributed into a clearer and more easily understood format. Going to the next report of the General Funds might help readers understand the "four pager" a little better, because now one can see where the money was and where it is now. The General Fund budget is one of the amounts the town will be voting on. Also new this year is the Cash Flow Statement. This shows you the month in which the town has reached its cash low point financially.

Enclosed in the Town Report packet is a pamphlet entitled "Why And How To Read the Your Town Report". We hope you will be able to set aside time to review it. The number of total Articles to be voted on is down to 10.

Green Up Day *by Marcia Clinton*



May all the rain showers wring themselves out in April, so that the sun shines on Windham on the first Saturday of May. Regardless of the weather, Green-Up Day will be on May 7th in Windham. Everyone from the very young to the mature are invited to meet at the Windham Town Office at 9 a.m. to pick up collection bags and decide on assignments around the town. The bags also will be at the Town Office the week before for those who wish to do some trash picking early, at their convenience. Just note on the clipboard the roads you are cleaning. The filled green bags can be left at the side of the road for pick up later by the town crew.

At 12 noon there will be a Worker Appreciation Lunch at the Windham Meeting House for all, compliments of the Windham Community Organization. Hot dogs, chips, soda and cookies will be served. After the lunch the "Bragging Rights" prizes will be awarded. Some of the categories are: for the weirdest item, number of bags collected, longest distance covered, etc. We who live here think Windham is a special place, so Green-Up Day is a chance to show our pride in our town and to all pitch in and clean up the roadways.

Please note— Windham News and Notes is not forwarded because of our Non-Profit Organization Postage status. This certainly helps us to maintain lower costs but does require you to notify us when you have changed your address. Our contact information is on the back page. Thank you.



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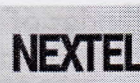


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Cynthia Hughes, Celtic harp, and John Crockett, cello and Celtic whistles, are local musicians and naturalists who bring their love of the earth and sea into their music to celebrate the interconnectedness of all life. Together they perform as Coracle, creating programs of Celtic and original music inspired by the land and the sea and its creatures, especially the whales and seals. Cynthia and John weave tunes, songs, and wildlife recordings into a magical journey where the human, the natural and the mystical meet.

Windham Congregational Church Annual Meeting Held *by Ginny Chriddenden*

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the Windham Congregational Church was held on Sunday, January 30 after the church service and a delicious soup lunch. It is the yearly business meeting of the church when officers are elected, and any other business is discussed. We elected Bill Koutrakos as our new treasurer, since Ernie Friedli says 27 years is enough for him! Thanks to Ernie's good care of the finances, the church is doing fine.

We have discussed and voted to use memorial gifts plus some the church money to buy a new piano for the downstairs "winterchurch area". It will be a wonderful addition to our weekly services. The gifts were in memory of Alice Stowell Bliss, who was born and raised in Windham and died at age 99, and also Caroline Chase, longtime member of the church.

New Windham residents, either full or part-time have had welcome visits from Leila Erhardt and Sheila Friedli. They bring with them important Windham information and phone numbers, and a lovely tri-fold brochure of the church. They are the town "welcome wagon"!

The Valley Bible Church invites you to check out their updated website at www.valleybibleVT.com for more information and a calendar of upcoming events.

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Emergency Flashlights Available *by Gina Noel*

The WCO has offered to provide Windham residents, age 60 or older - free of charge - a plug-in, always charged emergency flashlight. They last 15 hours and, when the electricity goes out, serves as a nightlight. We're hoping that this can be of help to our senior members of the community in the event of a power outage. Please write or email the Windham News & Notes if you would like one for yourself or if you know of anyone in town who could make use of one of these flashlights. Our contact information is on the back page.

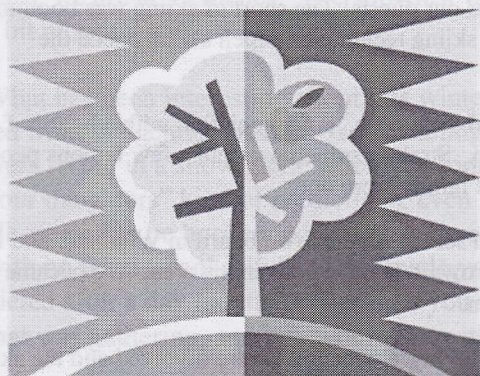
CORRECTION-- FAIR POINT PHONE NUMBER! *by Lydia Pope France*

The phone number that appeared in the last issue of WN&N for contacting FairPoint to let them know of your potential interest in DSL was incorrect. Apologies to all who tried to call, and thank you to those who contacted me about the error. The correct number is 1-866-984-2001. I have checked this number and it works.

It is not too late to call, just say you want to be sure that your phone number is included on their list of those interested in DSL when it becomes available. The people at this number will not know about timing, etc. Legally, that still remains 100% of the 874 exchange by the end of 2011 (THIS YEAR, at long last!). Might be sooner, but that is the date that they are contractually obligated to meet.

Heads Up! Hand Made Items Wanted *by Mary Boyer*

Crafters, get your fingers dancing and your creative juices flowing. The WCO is again looking for hand made items for their raffle at the Chicken Barbeque. Don't be shy. Consider it a good cause while making something for a neighbor to enjoy. Items will be collected in early July for display at the Meeting House. More information will be posted as the date approaches.



The coming of spring *by Mary Western*

Through sparse tiny

Snow flakes

I look out at the

Old apple tree

In full white bloom.



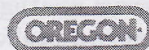
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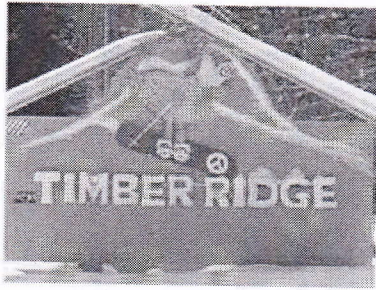
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A Voice from the Past: Endeavoring to Re-capture the Beginning of Timber Ridge Ski Area in Windham, VT. *By Joan Burdge*



I was delighted to read the article by Natalie Raymond, but think the early history of the area should be included. As the former wife of William S. Ingraham, the founder of Glebe Mountain Ski Area, Timber Ridge's former name, I offer the following information.

It all began when Bill and I were on our way to ski at Stowe from our home in Bristol, CT. (Bill was the son of the president of the Ingraham Clock Co.). As we drove through Manchester on Route 7, we were caught in a blinding blizzard which closed the roads. We checked into a motel and while reading the local paper discovered that a new ski area was being planned nearby by Hans Thorner, a former Swiss skier who lived just down the street! Fascinated, Bill made contact with Hans and they spent the next two days talking. By the end of the storm, Bill was Vice President of the about to be created Magic Mountain in Londonderry, VT. We ended up skiing at Bromley. Another twist of fate---Bromley was begun by Fred Pabst of the Pabst Brewery family in Milwaukee where Fred grew up as did my mother who was also a skier.

That summer Bill and I moved our family of five children to a house in Londonderry and later to the old farm house on Glebe Mountain. It had been a working farm with a barn, apple orchard, pond, mountain stream, and open fields. The most recent owner was the wife of the editor of The Boston Globe newspaper. It was a big change for our children but they loved it---skiing, hiking, biking the old dirt roads, fishing (I stocked the pond with trout), and making new friends.

Thus the development of Magic Mountain began with trail designs, real estate plans and an endeavor to raise more capital. Bill discovered some false information was given to potential investors. Since Hans would not change this, Bill took him to court and won. This ended our association with Magic Mountain.

We decided to start our own ski area on the other side of Glebe Mountain where our farmhouse was located. Thus began Glebe Mountain Ski Area, Timber Ridge as it is known today. In 1963 we laid out a plan for "our side" of the mountain with trails, a lift, and base lodge with restaurant and ski shop. Local people were hired to do the initial work on the mountain, as well as groom the slopes, teach skiing and patrol the area. Being a small area we got to know the skiers. On Sunday, after 12:00 when the "city folk" headed home we opened the ski area to local skiers who skied free as our guests! The sport of skiing was booming with new ski designs, fancy ski clothing, chair lifts, grooming equipment, and new skiing techniques which all enhanced the sport.

As the ski area grew and chalets were built on the surrounding lots more skiers used the slopes. An association with a board of directors was created. Social life on the weekend was vibrant, a sort of private club. Stratton sometimes sent a few famous people to ski on the slopes to avoid their crowds and ski in peace. Jackie Kennedy and family were one.

We were very involved in our new hometowns of Windham and Londonderry. Bill served on the town board in Windham and I taught school children to ski at Bromley and Stratton and created Cub Scout and Brownie Scout troops in the area. We became good friends with the Newton family and spent several fantastic evenings with them.

After a few years Glebe Mountain ran into financial problems. My husband, William Ingraham, and I were divorced and the ski area was sold to two Dartmouth grads. New lifts and base lodge were added as well as more trails, all of which drew more skiers for several more years. Then they too had financial problems and eventually the ski area was sold to the person who owns the Manchester Plumbing Company. He too would like to re-open the area---but times are tough!

I married Clifford Burdge, a bachelor and Hartford attorney and a non skier who became the instant father of my five children. He learned to ski and we sold the farm house and built a chalet at Timber Ridge which I still own. Cliff passed away four years ago but I still use the "vacation home".

FYI: The chicken on the logo for Glebe Mountain was suggested by my then five year old daughter, Kathy. "People get chicken when they ski", she said as we attempted to design a sign for the ski area. It's still there today-- but the chicken is now on a snow board!

All things change, including ski areas--- For anyone interested, there is a book titled The Lost Ski Areas of Southern Vermont by Jeremy Davis published by the History Press of Charleston, SC 29403 or www.historypress.net.

Winter White *by Lydia Pope France*

This has been a strange winter. Having said that, I have to ask myself just what I mean by it. We have lived in Windham through 12 winters now and in actuality, I don't think that any two have been alike. So just what is it that makes me think that this year has been strange?

I think of the six months from October through March as ones in which we are *likely* to have ... or can *possibly* have ... what passes for real winter weather in places not too far to our south. Measurable snowfall generally comes before October is out, with flurries as early as the first week.

The first half of October saw temperatures up in the 60s, and lots of rain. Just under 13 inches, in fact, which I know the skiers out there were thinking of as missed snow opportunities! The first real frost came at our house on the 19th, 9 days later than last year. That may not sound like much, but climatologists measure weather shifts in days, not weeks ... We did have some wet snow flakes mixed in with the almost three inches of rain on the 15th, but it wasn't until the 31st that we saw a half inch of snow!

November was marked by no snow. None at all. Not a flurry. Not even a dusting. And much of December was snowless, until a few days before Christmas, when we got one inch one day and one inch the next. Christmas was a white one, but to date we had only gotten 2 ½ inches of snow.

However, that all changed on December 27th, when we got a good foot and a half, perhaps two feet and it started to feel more like winter around here. With the fierce wind it was hard to be sure of just how much of the white stuff fell. January saw another thirty inches, most in one storm. The wind was whipping again for that storm, officially making it a blizzard, and causing the roads to blow closed not long after Rodney and Bill had cleared them.

February is not quite half over as I write this, and we have had 24.5 inches so far. When we do the math, we are up to 89 inches for the season, with a good six weeks to go, including the ever-snowy March. If I use my less conservative numbers, increasing the two biggest storms to 2 feet each (since the wind did make it a tad hard to be certain), we are at 99 inches. The snowiest winter since we came to Windham saw 15 feet at our house, so we are only a bit more than halfway there ...

What has been interesting about this winter is that the storms seemed to be at two ends of the spectrum. They varied from the gentle, pleasant "snow falling on cedars" type that was lovely to watch and made you feel like you were living in a snow globe when you looked out your window. The others were the sort that came with "lock up your daughters" kind of predictions, even from winter savvy Vermont and New Hampshire forecasters! And they all seemed to be bookended by these glorious days. Cold ones to be sure, but spectacular, cloudless, inky blue skies with no wind (thankfully!). They made you think there couldn't possibly be a storm of the magnitude being predicted after a day like that. But then you would look out, later in the afternoon, and see the darkening mackerel sky that was gathering, and you would know that "they" were right.

The winter weather wouldn't be complete without mentioning that cold I referred to ... we have had more than our fair share of frigid days and nights. Coldest temperature recorded at our house was -17 on January 24th. And yes, I do mean Fahrenheit. Since the middle of January, we have had 15 days of single digits or below zero overnight.

But the days have gotten longer (December seemed particularly dark, particularly early, and *everyone* seemed to be complaining about it) and the sun is noticeably warmer. So now we get to wait and see just how much more snow might come our way, and then we get to watch it all recede, looking for the first snowdrops to appear. This year we are not alone, as even down in the "banana belt" along the Connecticut River there is more snow than anyone knows what to do with. But soon it will be behind us, and we will move on to the next round of challenges, like mud, and then bug bites and the question that is always with us, "will we get ripe tomatoes this year?". But hey, that is all part of the charm of Windham, isn't it? Absolutely!



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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: Sunday - 9:45 AM Sunday School; 11:00 AM Worship, followed by pot luck lunch at 12:15 and 1:00 PM Afternoon Bible Study; Thursday - 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting and Bible Study.

Every Wednesday - **Windham Town Library** open at Meeting House from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Also at that time: reading group on first Wednesday of the month.

Wednesdays, 9:00 to 12:00 - **Town Listers'** office hours at the Town Office

Mondays, Mar. 7 and 21 and Apr. 4, 18 - **Select Board** meets at 6:30 PM at the Town Office. Public Invited.

Thursdays, Mar. 10 and May 12 - **Planning Board** meets at 7:00 PM at the Town Office. Public Invited

Wednesday, Mar. 30 and Apr. 27 - **Windham Community Organization Meeting** at 7:00 PM at the Meeting House

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - **Town Office Hours** - 10:00 to 3:00 PM

Town Meeting— 10 AM, Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Bring a Pot Luck Contribution for Everyone to Enjoy \$1.00 for Drinks and Paper Goods

Soup Supper and Concert—6 PM Saturday, March 12, 2011— Meeting House

Green Up Day—May 7, 2011— Town Office at 9 AM