



NEWS

A newsletter to inform, celebrate, promote and contribute to the community of Brookfield.

2015 - It's Been A Great Year at the Old Town Hall!

Once again the summer has flown by and it certainly was a fabulous, if not the best mix of events yet, and always fun! We kicked off the 2015 event season early in June with our traditional Community Pot Luck Supper, which featured RUHS/RTCC student-made films, presented during dessert. It is invigorating to come out of winter hibernation and have the opportunity to gather at our Old Town Hall for good food and visits with neighbors, old friends and new. The next event was a Cheese Tasting with a new twist. Allison Hooper of Vermont Creamery and a Brookfield resident provided cheeses



Community Pot Luck Supper

for sampling and was joined by her son, Miles, of Ayers Brook Goat Farm, who spoke about the goat farming angle of cheese making.

There were two new series introduced this year. One was focused on bringing young families into the OTH community. "Second Sunday Family Fun Days" began in June and continued throughout the summer. The themes were: "Nature Discovery" with Mary Zentara, when the children were welcomed by Joyce and Ray Bisson to explore their wonderful nature trails, "Swing Peepers", a dance party and pot luck supper, "Blueberry Brunch and Cooking Class", some of the children helped pick blueberries at the home of Betty and Gary Lord, in preparation for the event. "Pasghetti Western", a spaghetti dinner followed by the film made in South Royalton with an all-child cast.



Activities for little ones while others visited at Kickoff Community Potluck

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Bingo was a hit for all ages

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The second mini-series was not new to the Old Town Hall – BINGO! There was a lot of enthusiasm for the return of Bingo, and it would not have been possible without Ricky Kidder, who called the games each night for all nine evenings of the series. You can be sure that both of these new event series will be back next year! A return series was Yoga, this year with Deonne Myrick. It was a big favorite and sure to return next year! Both Bingo and Yoga were so popular that they were extended beyond the original scheduling.

In mid-summer, Sabra Field, an acclaimed VT artist and printmaker, along with filmmaker Bill Phillips, a visiting professor at Dartmouth, showed a recently-completed documentary about Field’s life and work, followed by an opportunity for questions from the audience. Soon after that, Rachel Brownstein, a Brookfield summer resident and a wintertime professor at Columbia University, NYC, led a lively discussion of Jane Austen’s “Emma”, while participants enjoyed a Jane Austen-era tea party with shortbread. The tea was provided and described by John McConnell, of The Vermont Liberty Tea Co. The scrumptious shortbread, a long time favorite, was baked by Clotilde Hryshko.



The Bear Mountain Jammers joined us in July

Important to our overall season, were three musical events. In June, Jennifer Johnson was the caller, and the Zac Johnson and Friends Band played for a Family Square Dance. The Bear Mountain Jammers, a local, well-loved quintet, provided music for listening and dancing in July. In October, Myra Flynn, a singer/songwriter/recording artist, came home to Brookfield to share her talents in concert at the Old Town Hall.

We hosted an Energy Fair with information and solutions offered by local vendors. An informational evening was led by Jay Lackey of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. He talked about the increasing threat of the Emerald Ash Borer in our area and what to do about it.

The annual Silent Auction was held during the Floating Bridge Food and Farms Co-op’s summer Market Day and an Indoor Yard Sale gave participating vendors an opportunity to “downsize”.



Always a big hit, No Strings Marionettes

The season wouldn’t be complete without two very special events. “No Strings Marionettes” returned this year to present “Treasure Hunt – An Undersea Adventure” to a thrilled audience of the young and not-so-young. The Second Annual Souper Supper, a shared fundraiser with the Randolph Area Food Shelf, was a huge success made possible by nine area restaurants donating soups and bread, volunteer bakers making desserts, and Stephanie Tyler of Third Branch Pottery donating 65 of her hand-made bowls to hold the soup. The Frankenburg Agency covered the cost of the pottery materials.

The Harvest Supper in October, the grand finale of the 2015 season, was a feast made from local produce and prepared by members of the events committee and our friends and neighbors. Attendance at our

events continues to grow, and the number of folks wanting to jump in to help out is also on the rise. Your events committee is still enthusiastic, and welcomes more new members for next year. We hope you’ll think about jumping in – it’s a lot of fun!



Third Branch Pottery bowls ready for the Souper Supper

Brookfield Floating Bridge Celebration

The celebration in May of the opening of our brand-new, eighth floating bridge attracted about 2,000 people to our tiny Pond Village. Some of the celebratory activities were held in the newly-restored Brookfield Old Town Hall.

The Brookfield Historical Society presented an interesting display about the long and sometimes-contentious history of the seven floating bridges. Kit Gage, who was born and raised in Brookfield, made several presentations about the history of the bridge from his unique perspective.

On Saturday evening the Bear Hill Jammers provided music for a lively dance session in the auditorium. The following afternoon the “Flowting” Bridge Band closed the two-day celebration with a concert, followed by joyful dancing.



Audience is always wrapped up in the show



Vance Smith and Al Wilker install the plaque they designed for the Old Town Hall

Restoration of the Old Town Hall Continues

As most Brookfielders know, the Old Town Hall is, like most Vermont homes and structures, a work in progress. Every year we tackle a new set of jobs to upgrade the building and to help make visitors more comfortable. 2015 was the second year of a grant from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) to make improvements to the exterior of the building in a way that preserves its historic character.

This year we replaced a number of rotten or cracked clapboards on the front and sides of the building. The new clapboards will help keep the weather out, so rot doesn't set in. We also clapboarded up two windows that had been taken out, when the building was used as a post office many years ago. One can see where there had been two windows, because the casings are still in place, but now there are clapboards where the window panes had been. This helps to preserve the architectural integrity of the original building.

We replaced the sill and re-hung the door to the lower level of the building. The door had been out of alignment, but now it opens and closes properly and it can be

locked. This makes the lower level more accessible, as we renovate it for future uses.

All of these projects were contracted out to professional restorationists, thanks to the VDHP grant, a grant from the Lamson Howell Foundation and matching funds from the citizens of Brookfield!



So many possibilities for rental decorations

Rental Opportunities at the Old Town Hall

The Old Town Hall has been a popular setting for a number of wedding receptions and other events over the past two years. Renters have been from the Brookfield community and "away". People have heard about the brightly-painted, large hall, the newly-outfitted caterers' kitchen, and other building improvements at this charming and historic setting near the famous floating bridge in Pond Village.

The OTH has recently been rented for other events and meetings, including the Central Vermont Runners club, and the Little Wings Daycare Art Show. It has already been reserved for next year for the Randolph Union High School's 20th reunion of the class of 1996.

The Rental Committee has worked hard at attracting rentals that are convenient and accommodating to our clients for these events. Rental rates range from \$300 daily for weekends to \$75 for a weekday meeting. Brookfield residents and non-profit organizations receive a discount. A refundable \$100 deposit is added for security reasons.

Please let your family members, friends, and neighbors know about the opportunity to use our lovely site for events and meeting.



More rental decoration possibilities

We Welcome Volunteers!!

Contact us at 276-3020.

Tell us the projects

You would like to work on.

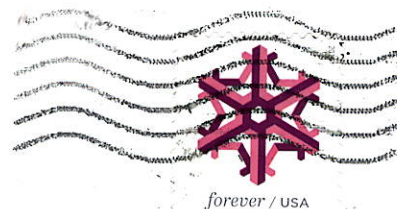
Funds Raised Oct. 2014 – Oct. 2015

\$8,590	Individual Contributions
\$5,225	Businesses Sponsorships
\$14,311	Grants
\$5,778	Events
\$1,543	Bridge opening celebration
\$900	Rental of Hall
\$36,347	Total

Billi Gosh
Brookfield Community Partnership
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Curtis & Ed Koren
P.O. Box 464
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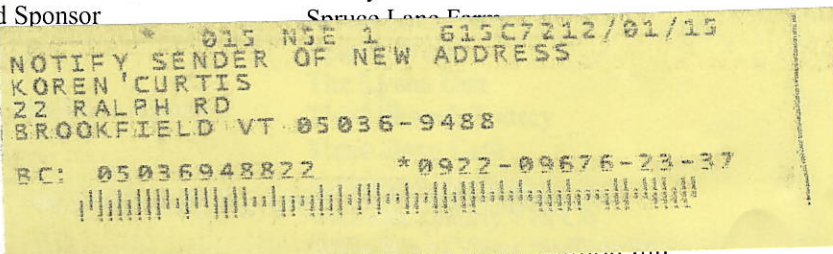
Great Appreciation to our 2015

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Magee Office Products
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**Thank you to the Merchants, Farms,
Artisans and Neighbors who
Supported a Specific Event/s:**

Ariel's Restaurant
Ayers Brook Goat Dairy
Betty and Gary Lord
Betsy Hale
Black Krim Tavern
Brookfield Bees
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Chef's Market
Deonne Myrick
Ed Koren
Erik Nielsen
Fat Toad Farm
Fox Stand Inn and Tavern
Green Mountain Girls
Joyce and Ray Bisson
L.H. Stowell and Son
Liberty Orchard
Massage Therapy Studio
Myra and Jim Hudson
One Main Tap and Grill
Pagoda Pond Gardens
Patty Becker
Randolph Depot
Rachel Brownstein
Ray Morvan, Sweet Retreat
Ricky Kidder
RUHS Student Filmmakers

**Thank You for Ongoing Publicity
Support:**

Bodenweber Design
Marya Merriam
Rule Signs
CENTURY 21 The Mill Stone Agency
**Thank you to all workers and helpers
involved in the continuing restoration
and upkeep of the Old Town Hall and
to the many volunteers helping with
our events.**

**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO BROOKFIELD'S
OLD TOWN HALL!**

You can be sure that your tax-deductible
donation will make a difference. Checks of
any amount can be made out to "Brookfield
Community Partnership" and sent to:

Brookfield Community Partnership
P.O. Box 452
Brookfield, VT 05036

www.brookfieldvt.org

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