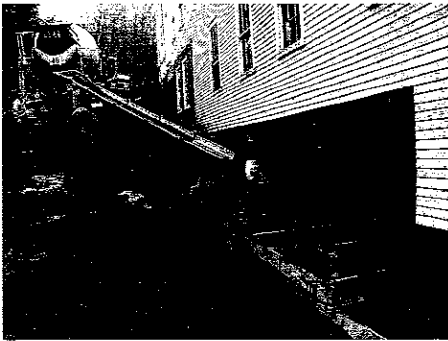


# NEWS

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



## Building Renovation Report

BY STEVE REID

With the help of Rogers Construction of Barre, an incredibly talented group of old building movers and manipulators, the Town Hall has been jacked up to level floors, allow for structural repairs by Dave Aldrighetti and crew, and to give Jim Rogers room to excavate under the perimeter of the building and pour new concrete footings and walls. Once the concrete walls were in place and the structural repairs completed, Mike Livingston laid the final foot of 'back mortared' stone between the top of the concrete walls and the bottom of the sills in order to maintain the original, dry-laid stone appearance of the foundation. The building was then lowered into the high, dry and structurally sound position it will occupy for many years to come.

The building renovation focus has now shifted to replacing the old metal roof with one of standing seam, constructing a ramp on the right front corner of the Town Hall to assure access for everyone to the assembly hall and to building a second means of egress (we used to call it a fire escape)

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## The Town Hall is Back!

BY JOHN ROE

For me, the summer of 2006 is when Brookfield's Old Town Hall became a community center again! We've been holding events for several years, but the building came to life this year with palpable new enthusiasm and ideas, and events ranging from the homey welcome of a lasagna dinner in June to the dance energy of the Starline Rhythm Boys in late September. The constancy of weekly bingo, driven by a local family's interest and commitment, was also a key to the summer's success.

Two things really stand out as to why this is the year the Town Hall became a community center again, even though we still have no indoor toilets. One was Ted Elzey's wisdom in the spring that tables and chairs were our most pressing need,

even though we had no money in the account and a long list of building priorities (including bathrooms). Having the tables and chairs made it clear that we were "open-for-business", and they made many of our summer events possible. The second was Elinor Gray's reunion party for everyone she could find who had attended weekly dances when the Old Town Hall was a vibrant community social center in days past. This gathering strongly symbolized for me the importance of building on the Town Hall's marvelous history and activities that are part of the community fabric which makes Brookfield such a wonderful place to live. We must continue to succeed in recreating a community center!

This newsletter celebrates the details of what we've accomplished and enjoyed since the last BCP newsletter. I look forward to another wonderful year, and welcome your energy and ideas into the mix for next summer.

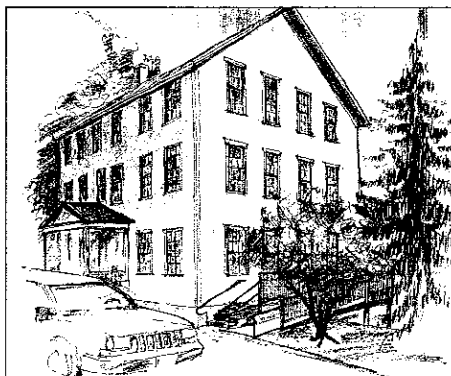


Elinor Gray and Joyce Hill prepare items for the silent auction at the Gala Day celebration.

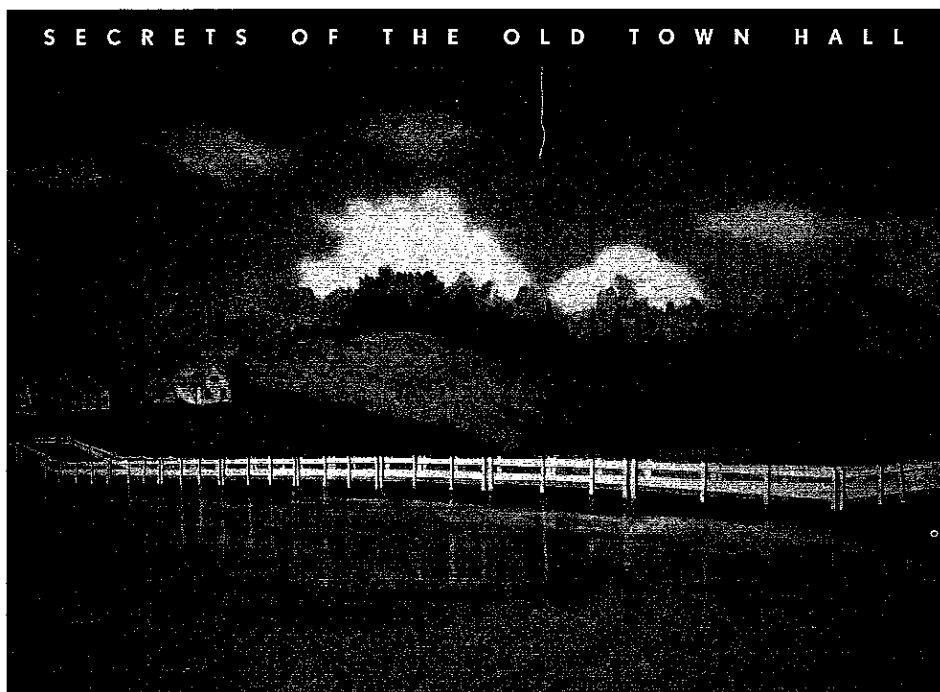
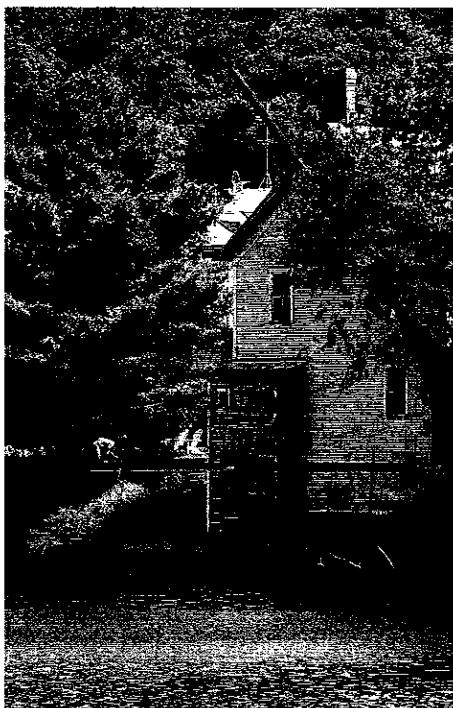
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starting on the left side of the stage and descending on the south side of the building. Lots more to do, but we're trying to deal with the highest priorities one at a time.

On a 'sweat equity' note, Preservation Trust of Vermont has offered to help BCP organize a window restoration workshop in the late winter or spring, to train a cadre of Brookfielders to do it ourselves. We'll let you know the date well in advance, in the hope that we can train enough people to make a dent in the +-80 windows in the Town Hall!



A proposed ramp design for the Old Town Hall.  
Courtesy of Black River Design



### Painted Theater Curtains Found in the Town Hall, and Conserved

When volunteers cleared out Brookfield's Old Town Hall a few years ago, one of the prizes found were two hand-painted theater curtains in the stage area. One of the curtains is an ethereal view of the floating bridge; the other is an advertising curtain documenting the emerging relationship between local business sponsors and the arts by the turn of last century. Both curtains were painted by Robert Naves, a professional artist and salesman who painted many curtains. In the early 1940's Naves joined the Flying Tigers (and designed their logo) and went to China, where he died in 1944.

Now these treasures have been conserved as part of the Painted Theater Curtain Project, part of the Vermont Museum & Gallery Alliance, and the recipient of \$150,000 from the "Save America's Treasures" grant program towards the cost of preserving Vermont's 120 curtains. Each of Brookfield's Town Hall curtains cost approximately \$3,000 to conserve, and the BCP used funds raised by a benefit concert to contribute \$500 per curtain for that effort.

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

You can be sure that your tax-deductible donations will make a difference! Checks of any amount can be made out to Brookfield Community Partnership, and sent to:  
Brookfield Community Partnership, PO Box 452, Brookfield, VT 05036.

Thank you!

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#### Brookfield Community Partnership Directors

John Roe, *Chair*, Ted Elzey, Elinor Gray, Curtis Koren, Ed Koren, Ron LaPerle, Steve Reid

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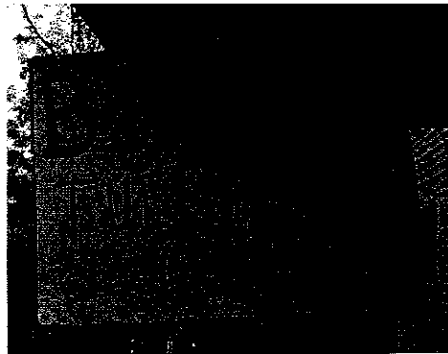
## Community Happenings

The Old Town Hall was transformed in many ways for community events this past summer. In late May, OTH was festooned with Buddhist prayer flags as part of a closing ceremony celebrating Vermont students who earned high school credits as part of the Vermont Intercultural Semesters program in Ladakh, a former Buddhist Kingdom high in the Himalaya mountains.

The Hall was full of lobsters later in June, when the Elzey family hosted a rehearsal dinner at the Town Hall for the wedding of their son, Scott, and his bride, Collette Hartigan. In August, the week long "Fiddle Camp" returned to the Town Hall, with master fiddlers Beth Telford and Jerry Holland teaching about 20 students of all ages. The week culminated in a festive "Kaelidh" concert and dance open to all.



Lasagna dinner guests.



## Renovation plans were a catalyst for community gatherings and FUNdraisers to support the Town Hall!

A special dinner offering **FREE lasagna** to all who purchased a chair for \$10 raised \$1435 for 150 chairs!

Weekly **bingo** games on Tuesday nights from May to late September earned \$1,807 for the Town Hall.

A **flea market** as part of the annual Brookfield Gala Days held at the Town Hall brought in \$620 (and one very happy person went home with Big Billy Bass...)

A **silent auction** raised \$3,654!

The elegant **Catamount Brass** quintet played on July 14, and brought in \$330.

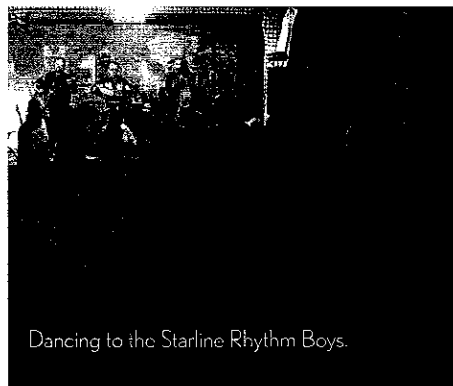
A swinging dance concert that was also a reunion of the famous **Bear Mountain Jammers**, featuring Brookfield's own Joyce and Larry Brassard as well as Gail Osha, Dennis Breault and Larry Deyette, raised \$440 on July 21.

The **Starline Rhythm Boys**, stars of stage, TV and radio, played Brookfield's Old Town Hall on Friday, September 22nd to benefit the BCP Town Hall Renovation Project to the tune of \$800. The Starline Rhythm Boys have been wowing crowds at hot spots like Red Square and Nectar's in Burlington and Charlie O's in Montpelier for years. This was a great final summer celebration of the revival of our grand dance hall overlooking Sunset Lake and the Floating Bridge!



The Starline Rhythm Boys

Photo: Jack Rowell



Dancing to the Starline Rhythm Boys.

Photo: Jack Rowell



Fiddle Camp participants.

### FUNDS RAISED IN 2005-6

- \* \$75,000: Federal HUD grant secured for BCP by Senator Leahy and the Preservation Trust of Vermont.
- \* \$5,000: Windham Foundation
- \* \$7,500: Vermont Cultural Facilities Grant
- \* \$18,200: private donations
- \* \$10,000: fundraising events

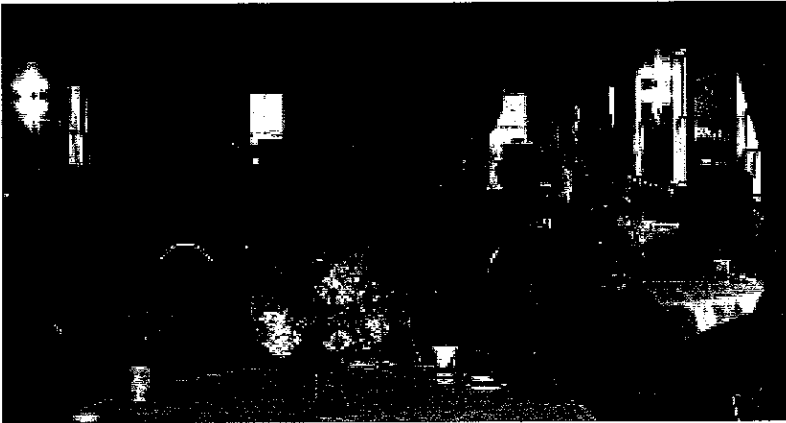
## Brookfield Town Hall Reunion

BY ELINOR GRAY

On Sunday, August 27th, 100+ people between the ages of 88 and 11 gathered at the Brookfield Town Hall. Greeted with tables of fresh flowers, buffet tables filled with decorative and delicious food, music and dancing to the famous "one and only fiddler" Harold Luce & friends band, this was an afternoon that reunited old friends, who reminisced and shared memories of the many events they had attended in that hall over the years. People came from all over Vermont, as well as Maryland, Florida, Tennessee, Connecticut, and Arizona. Some of those attending had not seen each other in 50 or more years. A good time was had by all!



Harold Luce and friends.



### STAY IN TOUCH!

For Town Hall Updates, please  
send your email or snail mail address to  
Ted Elzey, [Ted@C21Millstone.com](mailto:Ted@C21Millstone.com),  
or call Ted at 276-3020.

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