



NEWS

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

The Busiest Year in Recent Memory at the Old Town Hall

Thanks to a lot of enthusiasm in our community, and the creativity of our Events Committee, the Old Town Hall has been busier this year than in a long, long time. It all began with a potluck supper in May when about sixty folks shared casseroles and desserts while swapping stories about the lateness of spring. Local merchants donated prizes for the brightest bonnets and the cheeriest flowered shirts. Right after supper we surprised the crowd with a fashion show (Brookfield-style), featuring the latest in farm-wear. Laughter was a great antidote to a winter that hung on too long.

Wednesday, June 29th, we served an indoor picnic supper to over fifty folks, followed by the rollicking story-telling of Tim Jennings and Leanne Ponder. With the generous sponsorship of the Frankenburg Agency in Randolph, we offered this "dinner party" at a very low cost.

Ballroom dancing with dance pro Carolyn Pedrick was once again part of our summer, with an evening scheduled in each of the summer months. While we were able to offer our dance events in June and July, the August evening was canceled because of tropical storm Irene.

July was a month for poetry and music. We offered *two* poetry evenings – the first a poetry slam hosted by poet ("slam master") Geof Hewitt, followed a week later by the second annual "Pie and Poetry" evening, with readings by Vermont poets Jody Cladding, Lars Nielsen and Jane Shore. *And* once again we offered wonderful home-made pies. About fifty poetry fans attended *each* of these evenings, and the feedback was heartening: *more poetry!*



Market Day 2011, featuring the Floating Bridge Food and Farms Cooperative (photo by Betsy Hale)

With a second sponsorship from the Frankenburg Agency, both poetry events were free.

In mid-July the Old Town Hall hosted an old-fashioned square dance, with caller Jennifer Steckler (of Twin Pond Retreat) and Her Majesty's Streak o' Lean Band returning for a second year. Close to forty youngsters and oldsters joined hands for the dancing, and Gillespie Fuels of Northfield sponsored our evening.

The month ended with chamber music on a warm Saturday evening. Attendees were encouraged to bring picnics to Hippo Park or the lawn at Ariel's Restaurant. With financial support from some Brookfield residents, the 802 Quartet performed for an audience of about sixty appreciative listeners. For many, this was their first exposure to a string quartet, and their enthusiastic applause told us that this event is worth doing again.

The week of August 7th, Beth Telford's fiddle camp returned to the Old Town Hall – for the *seventh* year. Fiddling, dancing and pogo-sticking made the village a lively place.

Author-historian Neil Goodwin (*We Go As Captives*) paid us a visit on August 16th, with captivating stories about the Royalton Raid of the Revolutionary War, and the heroism of Zadock Steele (who lived for a time on Brookfield's Ridge Road). This wonderful evening was co-sponsored by the Brookfield Historical Society.

The second annual "Market Day" took place Sunday, August 21st, an event featuring the Floating Bridge Food and Farms Cooperative. Close to 400 shoppers made their way through the Old Town Hall. The day began with a noon "Save Our Bridge" rally, organized by local residents.

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Other "Market Day" events included the Brookfield Library's book sale, a silent auction to benefit the Old Town Hall, a re-dedication of Jim Sardonis' "Father and Son" hippo statue (organized by the Brookfield Historical Society), and a barbecue supper at Ariel's Restaurant. An important footnote: Hippo Park looked sparkling new, refurbished by local residents who heeded a call from the Brookfield Community Partnership!

September brought a fund-raiser dinner to Ariel's Restaurant, raising \$2,000 for the Old Town Hall. Forty-seven guests enjoyed a delicious four-course dinner, with vegetables donated by Hryshko Farm of Brookfield, and wines donated by Farrell Distributing in South Burlington. Chef Lee Duberman and maitre d' Richard Fink hosted the evening, donating their services and their restaurant.

The Brookfield Community Partnership would like to thank everyone whose enthusiasm and generosity support our work. Community-building is a particularly meaningful concept this year as we all pull together to help those whose lives have been so affected by tropical storm Irene. The flooding and devastation still bewilder us, yet we all feel grateful for the many ways that our community sustains us.

BCP RECEIVES AWARD

The Second Annual Hutchinson Award was presented to the Brookfield Community Partnership by the Randolph Area Community Development Corporation in September. The award recognizes BCP for selfless service to the community by harnessing community spirit and positive energy to re-build a community landmark. The plaque honoring the organization is on display in the Old Town Hall.

ARE YOU 70 1/2 OR OLDER?

Thanks to the extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover, donors age 70 or older may donate up to \$100,000 from certain IRAs to a qualified charity, such as BCP, and exclude the amount from their taxable income. This provision was extended through December 31, 2011.

Bathrooms Are Coming to the Old Town Hall

As the events at the Old Town Hall have ramped up, so have the requests for adequate toilet facilities.

Community members and visitors have had to bear with us for several years, trudging outside to a port-a-potty, occasionally in the dark without adequate light. But now, with thanks to the citizens of Brookfield and other donors to our Potty Campaign, we are poised to install two indoor toilets with a Clivus composting toilet system.

Some old-timers will remember the days of the two-hole outhouse out the back of the Old Town Hall (which is still there, but unused), where dilution was the solution to pollution. Today, to clean up our act, because we don't have enough room for a conventional septic system, we applied for a permit for a composting toilet, which will provide a sanitary waste disposal system with environmental benefits. We are grateful that the Agency of Natural Resources, which has become familiar with these systems in the last few years, awarded us a permit. A big thank you goes to volunteer engineer Jake Stewart for his assistance with permitting.

Last March at Town Meeting, the Board of the Brookfield Community Partnership requested a contribution from the citizens of Brookfield for the toilet project. Citizens voted to contribute \$20,000 toward the cost of the toilets, providing a huge boost to our campaign to raise \$25,000 for the project. Many thanks go to the generous and forward-thinking citizens who voted to support this worthwhile endeavor.

In the next few months we will install the toilets and finish the bathroom facilities. We are forming a Building Committee to do this work, hoping to complete the project with as much volunteer labor as we can. Call Ted Elzey at 276-3020 or Jon Binhammer at 276-3260 if you have some skills and wish to help.

FUNDS RAISED

- \$4,300 - 2010 Annual Appeal
- \$3,600 - Events
- \$2,000 - Grants
- \$2,100 - Individual and business donations
- \$20,000 - Town of Brookfield appropriation
- \$32,000 - Total

EVENT SPONSORS

Ariel's Restaurant, Farrell Distributors,
Floating Bridge Food and Farms Cooperative,
Frankenburg Agency, Gillespie Fuels,
Hryshko Farm

WE WELCOME VOLUNTEERS!!

Contact us at 276-3020
Tell us the projects you would like
to work on.

Brookfield Community Partnership Board of Directors

Ted Elzey, *Chair*
Jon Binhammer, *Vice Chair*
Denise Holmes, *Secretary*
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Denise Holmes, *Chair*
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Linda Kelly
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PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO BROOKFIELD'S OLD 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, P.O. Box 452, Brookfield, VT 05036.

Thank you!