

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 15 NO. 4 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2008

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ANNUAL MEETING AND NEW PRODUCT

The Annual Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society was held on Thursday evening 30 October 2008 at the Society at 96 Center Street, Rutland, Vermont. The Business Meeting with reports and the election of officers and directors was followed by a presentation by Clifford Giffin, leader of the map scanning team, on the 1884 J.F. Beers map of Rutland. This five foot by five foot map has been scanned in pieces which have been knit together into 10 items which have been placed into a PDF file on a CD disc. Copies of this disc are now available from the Society at \$10 a copy.

The CD includes: 1. A Rutland map history, 2. A list of 1884 Rutland businesses, 3. An overview map of Rutland Town, 4. A map of Center Rutland, 5. A map of West Rutland, 6. A map of Northeast Rutland Village, 7. A map of Northwest Rutland Village, 8. A map of Southeast Rutland Village, 9. A map of Southwest Rutland Village, and 10. A map of Downtown Rutland.

The viewer can readily move around each map section and can blow up the map section to about 300%. Map sections can be easily selected from the index.

The audience at the presentation was entranced by the work that the Society had accomplished and wanted to know when the disc would be available. The answer is NOW.

Send your check for \$10. to the Society or drop in to pick up a copy. There is NO shipping or handling fee.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED

Pres. Chuck Piotrowski
V.P. Jim Davidson
Sec. Helen Davidson
Treas. Tom Carpenter

Dir. (2 yrs) Clifford Giffin
Dir. (2 yrs) Francis (Mickey) Kelly
Dir. (2 yrs) Carolynn Ranftle

Continuing Directors: Lloyd Davis, Ron Hemenway and Dorothy Whitford
Lloyd Davis has been elected as Board Chairperson.

EXPANSION COMMITTEE FORMED

The Society has had great success in collection additions during the past year. The members of the Collections Committee have been busy attempting to process and store these items. Although additions are welcome, this success places pressure on the current storage space. Accordingly, the President has authorized the formation of an ad hoc committee that currently includes: Finance Committee members Tom Carpenter, Jim Davidson and Alan Shelvey, new Board Chairperson Lloyd Davis, President Chuck Piotrowski and new Board member Clifford Giffin. On 2 DEC Jim Davidson, Lloyd Davis and Clifford Giffin represented the Society at a Rural Development workshop at the USDA Service Center in Rutland.

"HISTORICALLY SPEAKING" ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

The Society produces "Historically Speaking" on cable Channel 15. A new program is produced each month. The series includes interviews and historical pictorial material in a rather flexible TV magazine format. The programs can be seen every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., Thursday at 1:30 p.m. and Friday at 7:30 p.m. DVDs of past episodes can be obtained from Channel 15, Rutland Regional Community Television, 1 Scale Avenue, Suite 108, Rutland VT 05701-4460. They are \$10 for each episode. Make checks payable to RRCT. Include \$2.50 for shipping and handling. Channel 15 provides the DVD. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information. Consult the Society website at rutlandhistory.com for a complete listing.

Episode # 99 - Chuck Piotrowski is the guest presenter of a program on the history of electricity in Rutland called "Electric Rutland". The program includes some of the technical progress in generating and distributing electricity, the issue of mergers, and advertising and creating a public awareness of electricity. The program closes with a brief recruitment of participants for the Society's presentation, "Chasing Ghosts of the Past", in the Halloween parade.

Episode # 100 - The production of 100 episodes of "Historically Speaking" seemed worthy of a special acknowledgement. "The Talegatorz", a 1920s old time jazz band, accepted our invitation to be part of our celebration. The members of this group bring the viewer back to the 1920s and the era of vaudeville.

Episode # 101 - The year 2009 is the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Rutland Historical Society. It seemed timely to look at where the Society has been and where it might be going in the future. Curator Jim Davidson has been a member since the beginning of the Society and shares his reflections on the history of the Society and its tomorrow.

ON DEMAND AT PEG-TV.COM

The currently playing episodes from "Historically Speaking" and "Notes from the Past" and the next previous episodes from each series are now available in streaming video on your internet computer.

These episodes can be watched at any time. To access and play any of the shows please: (1) go to the Society web site (rutlandhistory.com), (2) click on "Historically Speaking", and (3) click on the second paragraph which will link you directly to the "Video On Demand Library" on the PEG-TV web site. Scroll down to the show you wish and click on it. If you need the free Quicktime Player, you can easily get a download at this site.

COMMITTEE CORNER

Chairpersons

Building Committee
Mickey Kelly - 773-9402

Cemetery Committee
Chris Book - 773-6252

Collections Committee
Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Exhibit Committee
Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

Finance Committee
Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Membership Committee
Robert Perkins - 773-0184

Personnel Committee
Mary Segale - 773-2326

Program Committee
Jim Davidson - 773-7525

Publications Committee
Jake Sherman - 775-2784

Research Committee
Helen Davidson - 773-7525

Society Historian
Mary Segale - 773-2326

Technology and Telecommunications Committee
Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

President
Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

Board Chairperson
Lloyd Davis - 773-3590

"NOTES FROM THE PAST" - A NEW PROGRAM ON CHANNEL 21

"Notes from the Past" is a new series of episodes jointly developed by Jim Davidson for the Rutland Historical Society and Caleb Wright of Channel 21 at PEG-TV, Rutland's public access government channel. The series focuses on political and economic issues of the past that have a relevance to similar issues today. A new show will be offered each month.

"Notes from the Past" is broadcast each week on Channel 21 on Monday at 6:30 pm, on Wednesday at 3:30 pm, on Friday at 6:30 pm and on Saturday at 8:00 pm. The shows will also be available on PEG-TV's web site in streaming video at any time. (For assistance in accessing these programs in streaming video see "ON DEMAND AT PEGTV.COM" on page 2.)

Episode # 1 - "Settlement, Conflict and Government". The first episode discusses the 18th Century land controversy with New York and the credit problems of an economic system based on notes and accounts.

The issues of home ownership and foreclosure threats and the credit impasse of the economy remind viewers that these issues have a close relationship to today's issues.

Episode # 2 - "Water, Water Everywhere". Very early in Rutland's history water power was the only source of power for all kinds of mills. This episode discusses water as a power source, as a short-lived canal idea, as an essential for personal use and its role in recreation. The program also deals with the development of water and sewer systems and the current issues caused by the aging water and sewer systems, many over 100 years old.

WEB SITE REPORT

The Society web site had 452,000 visits during the year 2008. This was a gain of nearly 100,000 visits over last year. In September the site had its one millionth visit.

HALLOWEEN PARADE

The theme of the Society presentation in the parade was "Chasing the Ghosts of the Past". There were over a dozen "ghosts" for Nick the Nickwackett big squirrel to chase from his "squirrel mobile" driven by Chuck Piotrowski.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Is it time to renew?

Please check the date above your name on the mailing label.

* If the date on your label is 2007 or earlier; your grace period has expired and this is the last *Quarterly* you will receive unless you renew by 28 February 2009

* If the date on your label is 2008, your dues for 2009 are now due. Please use the membership form on this page.

* If the date on your label is 2009 or later; your dues are up to date. Thank you.

Rutland Historical Society – Membership Form

96 Center Street, Rutland, VT 05701-4023

Phone: 802-775-2006

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Street Address or Post Office Box _____

City or Town _____

State _____

ZIP Code _____

Phone (optional) _____

E-mail address (optional) _____

\$8 Student

\$8 Senior (62+)

\$10 Regular

\$20 Contributor

\$50 Sponsor

\$200 Lifetime

Second person at same address (if any). No additional fee.
.Not available for Student or Lifetime memberships.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Rev. Jan. 2008

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

On 24 SEP Jim Davidson represented the Society at a meeting of the "Branding of Rutland" project. Individuals and representatives of cultural organizations and businesses shared their views of what Rutland was like. It was refreshing to hear such an outpouring of what a great place Rutland was and the reasons for this assessment. On 26 SEP Jim and Helen Davidson attended an excellent presentation by the project consultants as to the essence of the Rutland community.

On 29 SEP Jim and Helen Davidson attended a presentation by the Lake Champlain Basin at Green Mountain College in Poultney. In 2009 there will be a multi-faceted celebration of the Quadricentennial of the naming of Lake Champlain (1609-2009). Also 2009 will be the 250th anniversary of the Crown Point Road (1759-2009). There will also be events to celebrate this anniversary.

On 7 OCT Jim Davidson attended a public presentation of the improvements planned for Main Street Park. Jim has been serving on this committee for over two years. The improvements will add to the attractiveness of the park while respecting its historical character. These elements will be part of an ongoing Main Street (Route 7) improvement project.

On SAT and SUN (11 and 12 OCT) the Society held a successful sale of duplicate books and non-Rutland books and magazines not needed in the Society Library. A wide

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range of miscellaneous paper items, some LP records and numerous items from the basement that were not part of the Society's collections were sold. A number of back issues of the *Quarterly* were sold. All in all the sale was a profitable weeding.

During October Jim Davidson visited the Christ the King School 3rd Grade on three occasions and made presentations on generations, neighborhoods, and how Rutland local history connects the pieces. On 30 OCT Jim led a walking tour of old Rutland and its movement from "uptown" to "downtown" for the class.

On SAT 18 OCT the Rutland High School Class of 1943 held a 65th Reunion. In the morning the Society hosted the class members on a visit to the Society where they enjoyed viewing the attendance rosters of their class at Rutland High School during their Senior year. The Society also showed the "Historically Speaking" program "The Flood of 1927" as it shows many street views as the class would have remembered them. At noon the class enjoyed a luncheon at South Station. In the evening Jim Davidson provided a recorded musical program of tunes from 1939-1943 for the class reception. The whole event was well-received by the class members.

On FRI 7 NOV Clifford Giffin and Jim Davidson represented the Society at the Vermont Local Historical Societies/Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance joint annual meeting held in Bellows Falls. They made presentations of the 1884 Beers map scanning project and the Rutland PEGTV's streaming video on demand in the exhibit area.

On 10 DEC Jim and Helen Davidson attended a forum workshop for producers of TV shows by PEGTV to introduce a new blog feature of their web site. This will enable much more sharing among PEGTV producers.

DUES SCHEDULE

Sponsor \$50.00	Students \$8.00
Contributing \$20.00	Senior Citizens \$8.00
Regular \$10.00	(62 & up)
Life Membership (Individuals only)	\$200.00

**THE FACILITIES OF THE
RUTLAND HISTORICAL
SOCIETY ARE OPEN ON:
MONDAYS 6 - 9 PM
SATURDAYS 1 - 4 PM**