

# NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 16 NO. 3 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2009

<p><b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b></p> <p><i>Page 1</i></p> <p><b>Annual Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Annual Meeting Program</b></p> <p><b>Nominations</b></p> <p><b>Halloween Parade</b></p>	<p><b>ANNUAL MEETING</b></p> <p>The Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society will be held on Thursday evening 29 October 2009 at 96 Center Street at 7:00 pm. The meeting with reports and the election of officers and directors will be followed by a program at approximately 7:30 pm. The public is welcome to both programs. Light refreshments will be served.</p> <p><b>ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM</b></p> <p>In view of the number of activities and changes that have taken place at the Society during the past year and the fact that this is the 40th Anniversary of the Society, it seems appropriate to inform members where we have been, where we are now and what the future holds for the Society. President Chuck Piotrowski will chair a three-part program of information for the membership.</p> <p>Part One will be a brief overview of the first 40 years. Part Two will be a series of reports from committees and individuals who have been involved in a year of significant activity. We believe that the membership will be amazed and pleased with what volunteers have been quietly doing behind the the walls of the Society on a regular basis. Part Three will be a view of where the Society is poised to go in the next decade. Anyone interested in volunteering to help in any of these activities is welcome to join a committee.</p> <p>During the program the Board will be happy to share more details and answer questions. This is your Society and you need to be kept informed.</p>	<p><b>NOMINATIONS</b></p> <p>Pres. Chuck Piotrowski  V.P. Lloyd Davis  Sec. Helen Davidson  Treas. Tom Carpenter  Dir (2 yrs) Ron Hemenway  Dir (2 yrs) William Powers  Dir (2 yrs) Dorothy Whitford</p> <p>Continuing directors are Clifford Giffin, Francis (Mickey) Kelly and Carolynn Ranftle.</p> <p>Submitted by Mary Segale  Chairperson of Nominations Committee</p>
<p><i>Page 2</i></p> <p><b>"Historically Speaking" On Channel 15</b></p> <p><b>"Notes from the Past" On Channel 21</b></p> <p><b>New Steel Shelving</b></p> <p><b>Committee Corner</b></p> <p><i>Page 3</i></p> <p><b>President's Report</b></p> <p><i>Page 4</i></p> <p><b>Society Activities</b></p> <p><b>Sale</b></p>	<p><b>HALLOWEEN PARADE</b></p> <p>The Society will take part in the Halloween Parade on Saturday 31 October. The Society's theme again this year will be "Chasing the Ghosts of the Past". It is hoped that there will be new and more ghosts.</p> <p>Ghosts can be any age and can represent any time period. Parents should accompany younger children. The costume is a ghost gown made of an old sheet or curtain. Plastic tablecloths, with a neck hole, make an easy and cheap gown. The Society will make facemasks of deceased Rutlanders and the signs identifying them and their role. All should meet at the Society before 5:30 pm.</p> <p>Contact Jim Davidson at 773-7525 for information and to arrange for a Rutland mask and sign by Monday night, 26 October.</p>	<p><b>REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR DUES</b></p>

## "HISTORICALLY SPEAKING" ON CHANNEL 15

Episode # 106 - "The History of Rutland High School". Paul Crossman, author of the recent quarterly on the the history of the Rutland High School is the guest on this episode. He and host Chuck Piotrowski discuss the changes in the high school and its various locations over time. They touch on a number of points to which the public may say "I didn't know that".

Episode # 107 - "Around Pittsford". Peggy Armitage of the Pittsford Historical Society is the guest for this episode. "Around Pittsford" is a picture history that includes numerous views from Pittsford, Proctor and Chittenden. Peggy, who edited the book, shows a number of selected photos from the book, especially Proctor, and tells a tale about most. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

## "NOTES FROM THE PAST" ON CHANNEL 21

Episode # 8 - "The Development of Rutland's Infrastructure". Jim Davidson of the Rutland Historical Society talks about the changes in Rutland's infrastructure from the 18th to the 21st Century. The program presents some of the issues that the community will face. Jim concludes with the point that although history may give some perspective on the issues, it can not offer the answers.

Episode # 9 - "Education". Jim Davidson of the Rutland Historical Society concludes a series of episodes on issues facing the local community. Education will need to include a process to stimulate creativity in the young as the education of the past, although very useful, will no longer be sufficient for a rapidly changing future.

## NEW STEEL SHELVING

The Space Committee has recommended the purchase of additional steel shelving to provide for the proper storage of materials recently acquired. The Board has approved an estimated expenditure of \$3500 for this purpose. It is expected that this shelving and planned digitization of selected items will meet the Society's space needs for a number of years. Donations toward this purchase are appreciated.

## 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

**Web Site Committee**  
Karen Sanborn (co-chair)  
775-6928

**President**  
Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

**Board Chairperson**  
Lloyd Davis - 773-3590

## PRESIDENTS' REPORT

The Rutland Historical Society is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that serves the community through collecting, preserving and sharing the history of the communities of the old Town of Rutland. It continued over the past year to promote the history of Rutland in these communities and throughout the world. Here is a summary of the activities over the past year.

### **In the Community:**

The Society's commitment to the community continued unabated. Society members gave presentations for the Godnick Center Triad Program, Loretto Home, Interage, Grace Church Scouts, Rutland County Foster Grandparents, Tiger Scouts, College of St. Joseph, Christ the King 3rd Grade class, The Pines (Eden Park), and Kervick Center. An exhibit was presented at Lake Sunapee Bank during Friday Night Live and the Society participated in both the Halloween and the Loyalty Day parades. Members participated in the Rutland Creative Economy, Main Street Park improvement project, and the "Branding of Rutland" project. The Society worked with the Free Library to host two events in the Fox Room featuring prominent Vermont researchers. Finally, the Society continues to excel in its core mission of collecting the history of Rutland. While many collections were accessioned to the Society's holdings the Society was very happy to work with the city treasurer's office to ensure the preservation of historic city records that no longer had administrative value to city operations.

### **In the Schools:**

The Society endeavored to encourage Rutland youth to get involved in their past. The Society's research library was used by students of all ages. Classes visited the Society and Society members visited the classrooms and led walking tours for students in Rutland and from abroad.

### **In Vermont:**

The Society continued its statewide leadership among local historical societies. The Society members gave a presentation on the Society's innovative use of information technology and television at the Vermont Local Historical Societies/Museum and Gallery Alliance joint annual meeting.

### **In Print and on Disc:**

*News From Nickwackett*, the Society's newsletter, and the *Rutland Historical Society Quarterly*, the Society's award-winning publication were published regularly throughout the year. The *Quarterly* featured serious explorations of local history written by local volunteer authors. Helen Davidson continued to write the weekly column, "Tidbits From Then and Now" for *Sam's Good News*. The Society produced its first multimedia publication, *The 1884 J.L. Beers Map of Rutland*, this year. It is a scan of the 5 foot by 5 foot original map.

### **On Television:**

The Society continued to produce its award winning *Historically Speaking*. As of this report 107 episodes of the popular half-hour television program have been created and broadcast to the community. In the Fall of 2008, the Society created a second program called *Notes From the Past* and has produced 10 episodes.

### **On the Web:**

The Society's web page, [www.rutlandhistory.com](http://www.rutlandhistory.com), averages over 1,000 hits per day and has had well over a million hits in its short life. The website continues to add free content for the community and the world to use and enjoy, including out of print issues of the *Quarterly* and its newsletter "News From Nickwackett". Its free message board has been used by many to aid in local, national and international research of Rutland history.

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

**In the Society:**

The Society's 12 committees maintained a high level of activity and progress throughout the year. The success of the Society has led it to receive many donations of materials. The quantity of gifts pushed the Society's storage space to its limits in 2009. The Society convened a select committee of volunteers and charged them with resolving the space crunch. This committee identified needs, analyzed potential solutions and came to a strong consensus. While the Society could have embarked on a "build more" project, it chose a "maximize efficiency" plan. The Society has embarked on a project that will ensure that its current space is utilized to maximum efficiency. The committee projects that by maximizing storage in the existing space at the Nickwackett Firehouse, the Society will have plenty of storage space for years to come.

Finally, it must be noted that none of the above could have happened without the commitment and leadership of volunteers. Every year the Society's members give unselfishly to the institution and continually demonstrate their love not only for history, but also for the Rutland community past and present.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Piotrowski  
President

*NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT* is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Publications Committee of the Rutland Historical Society, 96 Center Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701-4023. Tel. (802) 775-2006. William Notte - *Editor*

**SOCIETY ACTIVITIES**

On 21 July Jim Davidson presented a memory program on "Goin' Shoppin' " at the Loretto Home and on 1 September at the Kervick Center. During August the Society moved its "Pico Raceway" exhibit to the lobby of the Lake Sunapee Bank at the corner of Center Street and Merchants Row. The Society had a tent with *Quarterly* browsing racks on Merchants Row for the Ethnic Festival on Saturday 1 August. The Friday Sidewalk Sales display was rained out. On 25 August Jim Davidson presented the music of 1956 at "The Pines". On 17 September Jim presented a program at the Rutland Country Club for the Rutland South Rotary. His topic was "Six Men of Note from Rutland's 18th Century". On 22 September Jim made a presentation on local history for the Castleton History Department's Senior Seminar.

**SALE**

On Saturday 10 October and Sunday 11 October the Society will hold a sale of a variety of items from 10 am to 4 pm each day. This sale coincides with the fall Art in the Park program that weekend. The sale will include books, papers and photos that do not have a Rutland connection or are duplicates. There will also be sale racks of the Society's *Quarterly* back issues. From the basement there will be files, tables and shelves that are no longer useful to the Society. Prices are set for clearance. Don't miss this one.

**2008 ON YOUR LABEL  
MEANS DUES FOR  
2009 ARE NOW DUE**

**DUES SCHEDULE**

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

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