

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 20 NO. 4

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

Page 1

Annual Meeting

October Sale

*

Page 2

"Historically
Speaking" On
Channel 15 In
Rutland

Holiday Gifts

Committee
Corner

*

Page 3

Treasurer's
Review

From the
Membership
Secretary

*

Page 4

Society Member
Awards

Society Outreach

On Thursday, October 24, 2013 the annual business meeting of the Rutland Historical Society was held at the Society at 7:00 PM.

Various reports were given and the annual election of officers and directors was held.

Nominees elected were:

Pres. Pam Johnson

V.P. Carolynn Ranftle

Sec. Rosemary Bradley

Trea. Tom Carpenter

Dir. (2 yrs.) George Bradley

Dir. (2 yrs.) Ron Hemenway

Dir. (2 yrs.) Michael Messier

Dir. (1 yr.) Ben Burdge

Continuing Directors are: Randy Brown and Lloyd Davis.

At a later board meeting Randy Brown was elected Chairman of the Board.

The program that followed the annual meeting focused on the past and future partnerships of the Society with two other community nonprofit organizations: the Rutland Free Library and the Rutland Railway Association. Paula Baker, director of the Rutland Free Library, was the first speaker. She described the regular meetings of a group of her board members with a committee from the Society. Many issues common to both organizations were explored. Each organization was able to contribute some services to joint activities that benefit each organization. A prime example of this cooperation was the scanning of the Rutland High School yearbooks which have been placed on the websites of each organization. The library board came up

with volunteers to do the scanning. The Society provided the training, equipment and final preparation for uploading by the Society. In another area the Library has agreed to help the Society with the cataloging of its library of books and to include them in the Library catalogue.

John Schaub, new curator of the Rutland Railway Association, was scheduled to be the second speaker but was unable to attend because of a family emergency. Jim Davidson, Society Curator who has had numerous conversations with John, briefly reported on some past sharing with the Railway Association. A number of opportunities for future sharing have been discussed.

The Society is now working on more joint activities with both organizations

OCTOBER SALE

The Columbus Day weekend sale at the Society was very successful. Nearly \$900 was added to the Society's accounts, thanks to the generous contribution of sale items by members. This has been a very productive event. Until recently the Society was using the sale to dispose of duplicate books and magazines and unneeded furniture and equipment. Now the event depends on the donation of items by members. We all have things that we have had for some time but no longer need. This sale is a great way to dispose of these items and help the Society at the same time. Please, remember us next October.

“HISTORICALLY SPEAKING” ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

The Society produces a new program each month. The series includes interviews and historical pictorial material in a rather flexible TV magazine format. The programs can be seen Wednesdays at 4:00 PM, Thursdays at 1:30 PM, and Fridays at 7:30 PM. DVDs of past episodes can be obtained from 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. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information. Consult the Society website (rutlandhistory.com) for a complete listing of past shows.

To watch the current or previous episode of “Historically Speaking” in streaming video on your computer: (1) go to the Society website (rutlandhistory.com), (2) click on “Historically Speaking,” and (3) click on the second paragraph which will link you to the Video On Demand Library on the PEG-TV website. In the search box at the top of the video player, type in “Historically Speaking” then click on the magnifying glass button to the right. You should get a choice of the two most recent programs.

Episode # 128 – “The Rutland Railway Association.” Peter Fisk, Secretary of the Rutland Railway Association, was the guest of host Jim Davidson of the Rutland Historical Society. The Association houses a railway museum and a model railroad club which Peter describes in some detail. The program includes views from the 2012 Rutland Train Show and some details of the 2013 Train Show.

Episode # 129 – “Civil War Medical Care.” Bob Ranftle of the Rutland Historical Society presents a brief overview of medical care in Vermont prior to the Civil War. During the Civil War problems in medical care led to major changes, many of which were led by Dr. Jonathan Letterman. Some Rutland doctors serving in the Civil War were also leaders in the changes. The Civil War became a turning point in the history of American medicine.

HOLIDAY GIFTS

The Society has some great gifts for the holiday gift season. The book *The History of Rutland, Vermont, 1761 to 1861* is \$30. The award-winning *Rutland in Retrospect*, which has been out of print for years, is now reissued on digital disc at only \$20. *Early Families of Rutland* is also available on disc at \$20. A \$10 regular gift membership in the Society gives four Quarterlies to the subscriber. We also have the *Howe To Book* about the Howe Scale Company and the development of the Howe Business Center for \$20.

COMMITTEE CORNER

President

Pam Johnson –
775-7074

Board Chairperson

Randy Brown –
775-7316

Curator

Jim Davidson –
773-7525

Membership Secretary

Robert Perkins –
773-0184

Society Historian

Mary Segale –
773-2326

Chairpersons:

Collections Committee

Tom Carpenter –
773-3626

Human Resources Committee

Pam Johnson –
775-7074

Program Committee

Jim Davidson –
773-7525

Publications Committee

Jake Sherman –
775-2784

Research Committee

Rosemary Bradley –
773-9411

Website Committee

Doreen McCullough –
776-5232

TREASURER'S REVIEW

Dear Friends and Members of the Historical Society;

As a long-time supporter of the Rutland Historical Society, a proud member, and as your Treasurer for over twenty-five years I value the work that the Society does for the local community and for the general public via our television programs, research, published items, and our website. Our "all volunteer" members spend countless hours working at the Society to bring you the best services money can't buy. I also know that I'm not alone in my appreciation of what the Rutland Historical Society brings to people of all ages throughout the area and worldwide through our website.

The Society has been just getting by with our expenses and income being about the same. For the past 10 years we have received just under \$181,000 in income offset by a little over \$177,000 in expenses leaving us with a surplus of just under \$3,900. However, most of our expenses have come in the last 5 years with our expenses exceeding our income by over \$12,750. There are reasons for this. Our membership has dropped from over 600 members to a little

under 500 members. Donations have dropped. Our expenses for everything, fuel, printing, mailing, electricity, etc. have gone up. Being concerned about this, we have been cutting costs as much as we can. For example, rather than 8 mailings a year, 4 for the quarterlies and 4 for the newsletters, we combined the mailings to just 4 mailings a year. Another example is that we installed energy saving light bulbs. We also replaced our old wooden windows with energy saving ones. But with all the cost saving expenditures we have done, we continue to operate in the red.

We occupy a building with a 99 year lease from the City of Rutland. As a lessee we are responsible for the maintenance and general operating expenses of the building. We do receive an annual grant from the city but it doesn't cover all the operating expenses of the building. We have been in the building for over 20 years and it is showing wear and tear that needs to be addressed. We just upgraded our security and alarm systems. In 2014 we plan to have the exterior of our front doors refurbished.

(Continued on page 4.)

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 2012 or earlier your grace period has expired and this is the last Quarterly you will receive unless you renew by January 31, 2014.

• If the date on your label is 2013, your dues for 2014 are now due. Please use the membership form on this page.

• If the date on your label is 2014 or later, your dues are up to date. Thank you.

• Please note the new place for a donation beyond the dues. Please help as much as you can.

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) Email Address (optional)

\$8 Student \$8 Senior (62+) \$10 Regular
 \$20 Contributor \$50 Sponsor \$200 Lifetime
(Individual only)

Please check and enter donation amount_____.

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

TREASURER'S REVIEW

(Continued from p 3)

Our carpet on the first floor needs to be replaced. Our wooden floor on the second floor needs work. Additional things need to be addressed but with limited funds, we do the best we can from the dues, grants, gifts, and donations of time and material.

I want what we all enjoy now to be there for future generations well beyond our lifetimes. We can't do it alone without the support of you, our friends and members of the Society. Therefore I am asking you if you would consider making a donation to our Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to help us with our financial situation. We could increase our dues amount but we are trying not to do that. We could reduce our quarterlies to twice a year. Again, we are trying not to do that either. We are trying to maintain our current level of services and benefits without asking you to receive less for your dues.

Whatever you donate, the funds will be put to good use. Another avenue available to you is to consider increasing your level of membership. Please also consider including the Society in your will. Your generosity will have a profound and lasting impact on your Society. After all, it is your Society as well.

**THE FACILITIES OF THE
 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 ARE OPEN ON:**

MONDAYS 6-9 PM

SATURDAYS 1-4 PM

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SOCIETY MEMBER AWARDS

At the Annual Business Meeting of the Society the following awards were presented by out-going President Carolyn Ranflet: Bob Perkins received an Award of Appreciation for his service as Membership Secretary. Pat and Mo Tucker received an Award of Appreciation for their years of service to the Society. Most recently they have supervised the preparation and staffing of the Farm Museum during Rutland Fair Week. Tom Carpenter received an Award of Excellence for over 25 years of exemplary service as Society Treasurer and Purchasing Officer.

SOCIETY OUTREACH

Jim Davidson was the principal speaker at the unveiling of the Vermont State Historic Site marker at the Rutland Railway Association Museum at Center Rutland on August 15, 2013. His topic was Rutland Railroad History. Doreen McCullough, Paul Crossman, and Jim Davidson manned the Society demonstrations at the Train Show of the Rutland Railway Association at the Franklin Center in Rutland on September 28, 2013.

On October 5, 2013 Jim and Helen Davidson prepared an exhibit of the history of the area for the Northwest Neighborhood Program. They also presented the "What's It?" program. The Annual Meeting of the Genealogical Society of Vermont was held at the Franklin Center in Rutland on October 15, 2013. The three presenters were all Rutland Historical Society members: Michael F. Dwyer, Bill Powers, and Jim Davidson.

Nickwackett Nick, the Society's squirrel mascot, and the "Ghosts of the Past" marched in the Halloween Parade on October 26, 2013.

