

# NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 21 NO. 3

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2014

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## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society will be held on Thursday, October 23 at 7:00 PM at 96 Center Street. The meeting, with reports and the election of officers and directors, will be followed at about 7:30 PM by a "Volunteer Appreciation" program.

Volunteers who have made contributions since last November will be invited to attend a program whose purpose is to socially give a brief note and thanks to the many and varied volunteers of the Society. It seems important to let volunteers know who other volunteers are and what they give of themselves. The public is welcome to all events of the evening. Light refreshments will be served.

## NOMINEES

Pres.	Pam Johnson
V.P.	Carolynn Ranftle
Sec.	Yvonne Crossman
Treas.	Randy Brown

Dir. (2 yrs.)	Ben Burdge
Dir. (2 yrs.)	Tom Carpenter
Dir. (2 yrs.)	Ray Mooney
Dir. (1 yr.)	Ted Lindgren

Continuing Directors are: Ron Hemenway and Michael Messier.

Submitted by Mary Segale,  
Chairperson of the Nominations  
Sub-committee.

## ANNUAL SALE

On Saturday and Sunday, October 11th and 12th the Society will hold its annual sale from 10 AM to 5 PM each day.

The sale began as an opportunity to sell duplicate materials and things no longer needed by the Society. Over the years there has been less of this material.

Last year members brought in small furniture, ceramic and glassware, and other things they no longer wanted. The result was one of the Society's most successful sales ever.

Again, WE NEED YOUR "UNWANTED" ITEMS for the sale. Please deliver your items during the week before the sale. Personnel will be available on Monday evening between 6 and 9 PM, and on Wednesday and Thursday between 1 and 4 PM. No clothing, please.

Unsold items may be retrieved on Monday between 1 and 4 PM. The Society will dispose of other unsold items.

## HALLOWEEN PARADE

The 2014 Halloween Parade will be held on Saturday, October 25th. Plans have not been finalized, but barring rain the Society will participate. There is always a need for marching "Ghosts of the Past." The Society provides hand-held masks and signs. Contact Jim Davidson at 773-7525 if interested.

## “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](http://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](http://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 # 134** – Family & History – Michael Messier, the guest on this episode, has spent the last few years exploring his own family genealogy on a global scale. What has developed is a new understanding of the French settlement in New France and its background in Europe. This early French history has had more impact on Vermont than many historians have acknowledged. Michael and his family are in the midst of this massive web of history. This exploration of French history in America leads into the history of Rutland before the English occupation.

**Episode # 135** – Rutland Train Show – 2014 – This episode provides a brief background of the Rutland Railway Association and their Center Rutland home. Guest Paul Rondinone, Treasurer of the Association, comments on the variety of model railroad activity at the Show. Host, Jim Davidson, describes the Rutland Historical Society’s presentation table at the show at the Holiday Inn.

**Life In Rutland County** is a new video produced by Peregrine Productions and Bill Doyle’s Vermont History and Government class at Johnson State College. Thanks to the producers of the video, the Rutland Historical Society had been able to include it on the Society website. The program runs 33 minutes.

The program shares the stories and memories from 10 local residents who grew up in Rutland County. These engaging stories, told by the people who rode horses to school and also took the trolley from Rutland to Lake Bomoseen, give us a unique perspective on Vermont History.

## 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

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Rutland Historical Society continues its mission to preserve and share Rutland History through digitization, community outreach, and sharing activities. The Society has furthered its mission goals through the following activities.

The Society continues to review and update its long term plan, particularly its financial health, to ensure that the Society continues to be a sustainable organization. The Society's funding is largely achieved through the annual grant from Rutland City and by memberships and donations from its dedicated members. To insure its financial health in these tough times, it conducted a Society Fund Drive which ended on June 30, 2014, the end of its fiscal year. The Fund Drive was successful, raising \$10,103 from 162 donors. Gifts ranged from \$2 to \$760 and came from both members and non-members. This money will help the Society in its time of need with capital improvements and other one-time expenses. In the coming months the Society will be utilizing these donations towards cost savings improvements and/or repairs and maintenance.

Technology and Digitization continue to be the heart of the Society's future. Major accomplishments this year include the digitization of the MSJ yearbooks, making 1939-2013 available for viewing alongside previously digitized 1930-2012 Rutland High School yearbooks. Digitizing the West Rutland High School yearbooks is well along. The digitized Rutland City Reports from 1976-2012 have been added to the website which provides access to all of the city reports. The Quadrennial Appraisals of the Real Estate of the City of Rutland, from when it was the Town of Rutland in 1891 to 1950 have now been digitized and added to the website. The list of Rutland Men Liable to Military Duty has been completed through 1864 and uploaded to the website.

The Society website (rutlandhistory.com) continues to be a vital link to and from the public and provides global access 24/7. The Website Committee is in the process of building a Rutland Library which will provide links to free digitized books that are out of print. The goal of this on-going project is to eventually provide access to hundreds of books. The Virtual Walking Tour produced in April 2014 by board member Ben Burdge has been very successful. It can be found on the Society's website.

The Society's live outreach includes: school groups, TRIAD, Rotary South, Railway Association Train Show, Chamber of Commerce Trade Show, and the Rutland Free Library. Members have also provided programming for the West Rutland Historical Society, Salisbury Historical Society, National Train Day, and the Northwest Neighborhood Program. Support has been provided for the annual Red Cross Blood Drive. The Society also participates in the Halloween Parade.

The Society television presence continued with eight new episodes of the Historically Speaking series on PEG-TV. Printed quarterly publications continued along with quarterly newsletters. The weekly "Tidbits From Then and Now," which is published in *Sam's Good News*, completed its fifteenth year of publication. The Society continues to provide photos and information to the *Rutland Magazine* and *Rutland Reader* and other publications.

The Library Partnership, in addition to its project of digitizing area high school yearbooks, meets regularly to share ideas for possible sharing between the Society and the Library.

The Society's Collections Management personnel have continued to re-organize, review, and upgrade preservation procedures. Progress was made on the long-term plan of creating a "secure" room for preserving special artifacts through restricted access. The Society continues to receive new acquisitions too numerous to list here. *(Continued on following page.)*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

As caretaker of the Nickwackett Firehouse, the Society performs the needed repairs and maintenance. It has installed an additional motion detector for the secure room; LED emergency exit lights; a replacement dehumidifier for the basement, and made repairs to the cellar entrance. The Society reported a serious chimney deterioration, which the city is fixing, and the roof slate damage from the recent hail storm, which is under city consideration. The Rutland Parks and Recreation Department continues to do an excellent job of plowing the parking lot every winter and mowing the lawn every summer. Society volunteers ensure the walks are cleared of snow. During the summer a Society volunteer maintains the small flower garden in front of the building.

The Disaster Recovery Planning Committee has made significant progress in the completion of their project focusing on personal safety, building security, and asset protection and preservation. All regular volunteers and facilitators completed training in the Society's Emergency Response Procedures this year.

The Society is open to the public Monday evenings and Saturday afternoons. These sessions are hosted by volunteers. Formal and informal facility tours are given and special arrangements are made when necessary.

Requests for historical information come from the website message board, emails, phone calls, letters, and visitors. Many of these requests require significant research and volunteer manpower. Annually the Society handles requests numbering in the hundreds.

In closing, the Society thanks the community for its support and asks everyone to join or continue their membership, to become a volunteer, and to donate historical materials relating to the original town of Rutland (Rutland City, Rutland Town, West Rutland, and Proctor).

Special thanks to all the volunteers, authors, directors, officers, and the curator. These individuals share their talents and tirelessly give their free time to make the Rutland Historical Society the wonderful, successful organization it is. As can be seen, the Society is a very busy place.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pam Johnson,  
President

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

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

