



NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

A Bi-Annual Newsletter Produced by the Publications Committee of
THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Hello Everyone.

Only three short months after the hope of a peaceful and happy new year, the world is now in a head-spinning state of upheaval and change. COVID-19 has made its presence known and the Rutland Historical Society is now physically closed to the public until the threat of the virus has been contained and eliminated.

2020 is a year of historical significance in the area and the country. Our Rutland Fair is to celebrate its 175th birthday. It is also the 250th anniversary of the Boston Massacre and the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower. These historic landmarks are all the markings of America's humble beginnings and struggles to endure. Once again, we acknowledge one of those defining moments in history and understand that perseverance is the one certainty with anything that lasts.

Since our last newsletter in August, we have celebrated the Society's 50th anniversary. Also, since that time, Jim Davidson has stepped back from the physical duties here at the Nickwackett Fire Station, but is willing to be on-call with any questions or help with anything we might need while finding our way into the next 50 years. We wish him and his lovely bride, Helen, everything wonderful.

As Jim subsides from his physical duties, our PEG-TV Channel 15 program, *Historically Speaking*, will continue and we welcome Michael Dwyer as our host.

Our long-time membership coordinator, Bob Perkins and our entrusted treasurer, Tom Carpenter, have also stepped back from their long-standing dedications. We are all eternally grateful for everything they all have done over the years, and quite frankly, the job in front of us is just a bit overwhelming, but we persevere onward!

Our new officers were installed in November at our annual meeting at the Howe Center. I am Barbara Giffin, the new President. Our board consists of Chair of the Board, Randy Brown; Vice President, Doreen McCullough; Secretary, Audrey Allaire; Treasurer, Lori Barrett; with fellow members Angela Hinchey, Corey Kennedy, Fred Remington, Jake Sherman, and Dr. Andrew Zak guiding the way into the future. Elizabeth Noyes is our newly-named membership coordinator. Together, with our numerous dedicated and essential volunteers, we are facing this year with unwavering determination! Needless to say, Bob, Jim, and Tom are on speed dial constantly.

We have been working diligently at the historical society. In the past few months, we have not only updated our entire website. Our webmaster, Doreen McCullough, has added an amazing amount of scanned material to be available free online to you at your home. We have also made available to all Vermonters, access to almost every newspaper printed in Vermont since 1786. If you are having problems accessing items, we are still able to help via e-mail. We have been updating our computer capabilities to be able to move into the future and to assist our online visitors with their research about the Rutland area and its history. If you have not taken a look, please take a moment to browse through these wonderful collections. You will be glad you did! We also hope to have Paypal available for your dues payments and any monetary transactions that you would like to make.

Share our news with friends and please make sure that your membership is up to date. We are only able to continue this endeavor through your support, memberships, and generous donations. You will be amazed at our collections, our knowledge, and the tools we have to share. Many thanks to all of our members. Stay safe and well.

We hope to see you as soon as possible!

Barbara L. Giffin, President

**We wish to thank our Sponsors and Donors of \$50.00 or more in
2019. We could not do it without you!**

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