

# The Limrik

A Quarterly Journal

For, by and about the people of Antrim.

Vol. 15 #2  
March 2006

## SCHOOL TAX DANGER

### DEFEAT BALLOT ARTICLE #14

By Tom Lawless, Conval School Board

The Tax Formula in the Conval School District is based on two things, property values and the number of children attending school. This formula determines the burden that Antrim must contribute. In the bad old days, the formula was 25% property value, and 75% attending children. That meant towns with lower property value but high student enrollment—like Antrim—would have to pay higher Conval school taxes. In the 1990's, we were able to move this formula to 50/50 which meant Antrim, with its high student enrollment and low tax base, had a lower school tax.

This change happened as a compromise because other towns in the district wanted to build new schools, and they

*—continued on page 2*

## NOTICE

### ANTRIM RECYCLE CENTER USERS

**Effective April 1, 2006** – All waste must be put in clear bags. We must recycle more and reduce our waste. Clear Bags will be for sale at the Recycling Center. If waste is not put in clear bags there will be a \$1.00 fee charged per bag. Thank you.

Clark Craig, Recycling Center Manager

## ANTRIM SELECTMEN

By Ron Haggett

Ballot day this year is Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, with voting to be held at the Town Hall from 8:00 AM till 7:00 PM. Voting will be for election of town officers, the CONVAL operating budget for 2006/07, warrants amending the CONVAL Articles of Agreement, and proposed zoning ordinance changes including one petitioned article to rezone a portion of route 9.

These items that are of importance to the voters of Antrim:

- The proposed change to Article #18 of the CONVAL Articles of agreement seeks to reduce the majority required to amend articles from the current two thirds, (66 2/3%), to sixty percent, (60%). If this amendment passes it will become easier to amend Article #8 in the future. Article #8 of the Articles of Agreement is the one which specifies the FUNDING FORMULA WHICH SETS EACH TOWN'S TAX CONTRIBUTION. Currently the formula is based 50% on student enrollment and 50% on property valuation. There is a move on the part of two towns in the district to change this to 60% student enrollment and 40% property valuation. If this were to occur Antrim would see a substantial school tax increase.

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## ✓ ELECTION DAY ✓

**MARCH 14, 2006 8 AM - 7 PM**  
TOWN HALL

## TOWN MEETING

**MARCH 16, 2006 7 PM**  
TOWN GYM

## 2006 TOWN BUDGET

### ALTERNATE FINANCING, REVOLVING FUNDS, AND FLEET ROTATION

By: Bill Prokop, Town Administrator

New opportunities for saving money and improving efficiency are a goal of Town management this year. At the Town Budget Hearing held on January 30<sup>th</sup>, the public was told about some new programs that Antrim is investigating.

The major one is a **Fleet Rotation Plan**. This concept has been successfully used by some of our neighboring towns, and now Antrim is considering adopting the concept and the system. Using a Fleet Rotation Plan whereby we lease the equipment, in 2006 we will be able to obtain seven (7) pieces of heavy equipment for our Fire Department, Highway Depart-

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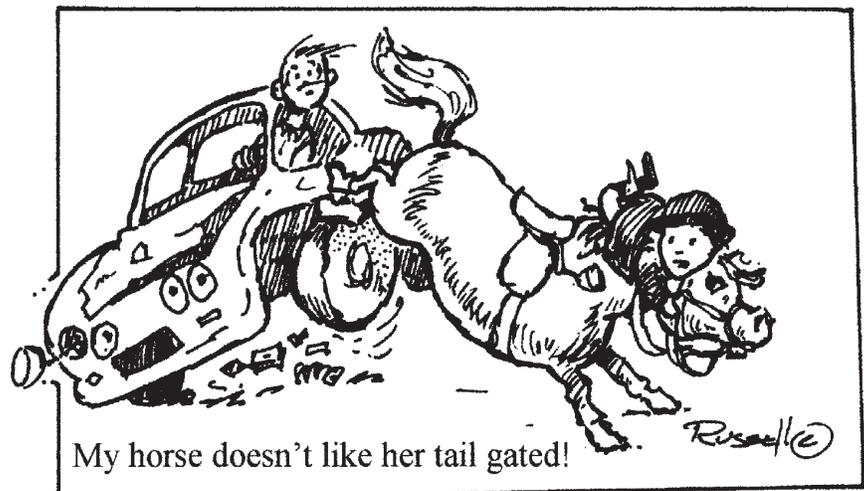
## HORSE SENSE FOR MOTORISTS

By Beth Merrill

As our town welcomes new residents from urban/suburban backgrounds and young teenage drivers, it seems a fitting time to offer some insight into one of the many hazards every driver may have to deal with—equines and equestrians.

Despite thousands of years of domesticity, the horse's flight instinct is still intact within its survival mechanism. If something surprises or scares a horse, it's first instinct is to run away. This characteristic makes horses dangerous to humans because an out of control, runaway horse is unpredictable and tends to make poor, split-second decisions. When this kind of behavior involves a rider or driver, even the best

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Please make checks payable to the *Antrim Limrik*. We hope people will keep up with the expiration dates of their subscriptions to the *Limrik*. On the mailing label is the following information: Subs. Exps. 'date'

## ADVERTISING FEES

Half Page (Back Page)	\$75 per issue
Half Page (Inside Page)	\$65 per issue
Quarter Page	\$45 per issue
Business Card size	\$30 per issue or \$100 for 4 issues

Advertising copy is due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the *Limrik* publication—February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10. Final decisions about acceptable content for ads will be made by the Managing Editor and the Advertising Manager.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

E-mail your letters to the *Limrik* in care of Lyman Gilmore. The address is: [l\\_gilmore@conknet.com](mailto:l_gilmore@conknet.com)

## CREDITS

Cartoon on page 1 was created by Russ Russell, Art Director.

## NEWS DEADLINE

News deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding each issue. Issues are published in March, June, September, and December. For the next issue, copy deadline is May 10. Please e-mail your article to:

Lyman Gilmore at: [l\\_gilmore@conknet.com](mailto:l_gilmore@conknet.com)

## School Tax Danger

continued from page 1

needed Antrim to pass the bond issues to build them. Now, with some of the other towns having full assessment for the first time, they want to go back to the old 25/75 formula. However, they realize that under the present Conval 'Articles of Agreement', they need two-thirds majority of the school district vote to change the formula. In recent years their attempts to change the formula fell short of passing by the required 66% by only a few votes. So now, instead of proposing a warrant article at this time to change the formula back to 25/75, they are instead proposing a warrant article to change the required vote majority for any formula change from 66% to 60%, a majority they believe they can win, based on recent narrow vote margins.

If they succeed in changing the necessary vote majority from 66% to 60%, it is likely that Antrim and other towns in the district that favor the current 50%/50% will never be able to have a voice in the matter ever again. They could change the formula to 100% children attending, and 0% property value, and we would be powerless to stop it.

So, the issue this time is to **defeat ballot article #14**. We need every vote. We need all our absent voters to file absentee ballots. It doesn't happen often, but the Republicans interests and the Democrats interests in this vote are exactly the same, and we must work together. If we do not succeed, we can expect our school taxes to increase above and beyond the yearly increases by 10 to 20%, while those other towns would pay the difference less. ❖

**After the *Limrik* went to press we were notified that the numbering of the Conval School District ballot articles had been changed. Corrected information is highlighted in red.**

— Editor

## CONVAL DISTRICT WARRANT ARTICLE

### A POSITIVE ACTION ON DAVID DODGE'S BEHALF

I am writing this quick note to clarify the Conval District Warrant Article that was submitted by petition for the upcoming District vote. The affirmation of Mr. Dodge's teaching ability and the apology for any ill effects on behalf of the school board and school administration are both caring and decent sentiments. The affirmation was taken directly from testimony by School Board Chair, Joe MacGregor. The apology comes in light of the March 2005 agreement that allowed Mr. Dodge to retire, setting aside the prior decision of the board to dismiss. There is no negative intention directed against any person or institution, only positive.

Unfortunately, some people still think that Mr. Dodge was dismissed or worse. Of course it would be better if residents of this district knew that he resigned and retired as a teacher in good standing, but that is not the purpose of this article. This article is to give Mr. Dodge a necessary and honest tool with which to remove the shadow of the accusations and hearings that were so disruptive to this community. I hope that these positive sentiments will help to heal these wounds.

Here is the text of the apology:

"As a gesture of goodwill we, the Contocook Valley School Board and Superintendent of Schools, affirm our opinion that Mr. David Dodge is an outstanding teacher. In an attempt to mitigate any problems that have arisen for Mr. Dodge related to our actions, we offer our sincere apology. We join many Conval School District members in wishing that Mr. Dodge find a teaching position, if that is his choice."

— Chris Baker-Salmon

# ROUTE 9 ZONING CONTROVERSY

## PLANNING BOARD REQUESTS TIME

By Paul Vasques

Scott Burnside, Chairman of the Antrim Planning Board, announced that the Board, after deliberating over public input taken at the January 19<sup>th</sup> public hearing, voted unanimously not to support the petition submitted by citizens to rezone a portion of Route 9 from Highway Business to Rural Conservation. The Board felt that the petition was not in the best interest of the town because it eliminated such unobtrusive activity such as cluster housing, condominiums, multi family dwellings, bed & breakfast inns and professional offices. Although proponents of the petition have stated that they do not object to small commercial activity, all that would be permitted in Rural Conservation, with the exception of churches and schools, would be agricultural-based businesses which generate minimal tax revenue.

The Board concedes that the petitioners have some legitimate concerns and feels that the Highway Business corridor along Route 9 does require study and possibly some form of rezoning but not the virtual elimination of all possible commercial development. However, they strongly feel that uses permitted in zoning districts should be established with public input and in conjunction with the Town's Master Plan. Towards that end, the Growth Committee, a subcommittee of the Board, has been charged to study not only the portion of Route 9 targeted in the citizen petition but the entire matter of commercial areas throughout the town. They will consider removing the North Branch and Contoocook Rivers from the business zone even though they are well protected by state and federal statutes. Other considerations would be possibly rezon-

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## HELP SAVE ANTRIM'S QUIET CORNER

By Alexander Snow

It could be called Antrim's quiet corner. The northwest section of town is a sparsely settled, densely forested region. Yet, it has faced a threat for almost 30 years. Much of Rte. 9 is open to commercial/industrial development in the form of car dealerships, industrial parks, gas stations, truck depots, fast food restaurants, and warehouses, to name just a few permitted uses.

In December, more than 240 residents throughout Antrim petitioned the town to change the zoning to Rural Conservation on three miles of Rte. 9 from Reed Carr and Liberty Farm Roads west to the Stoddard line.

The Rte. 9 corridor is more than just a highway, more than a place to pave over, build buildings, erect signs and otherwise add to the growing commercialization of southern New Hampshire. Why? A river deserving of protection runs through it, a very rare 4,000-year-old white cedar forest grows in it, an acidic seepage swamp filters water through it. The region is a vital environment with rich natural resources.

Antrim may view Rte. 9 as prime commercial property. But many other governmental and preservation organizations recognize the need to protect this corner of town. The state protects the North Branch River through its Rivers Management and Protection Program. The National Park Service cites the river for having three "Outstanding Remarkable Values" for its recreational, historic, and botanical features – an extraordinarily high rating. The land is part of the 28,000-acre Quabbin to

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## ROUTE 9 REZONING LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in regard to the recent issue of re-zoning Route 9 from the junction of Reed Carr Road and Liberty Farm Road west to the town line, being approximately 3 miles. Presently it is zoned *Highway Business* which allows commercial activity. It is being petitioned to see if the town will remove this area from *Highway Business* and rezone it to *Rural Conservation*. At a recent Planning Board meeting this was discussed, and it's apparent that the petitioners want to force businesses out of this area. The only benefit that would come from this significant change would be to protect a certain select group of petitioners from having any business around their homes which are located in this commercially zoned area right on Route 9. It was my permit that was granted to me by the Town of Antrim Planning Board that initiated this objective, and I feel obligated to set some of the facts straight by offering my opinion on why this change would be detrimental to Antrim taxpayers and property owners.

First and foremost, Antrim taxpayers and property owners should know that after the Planning Board granted me my permit to operate a small forest products operation, certain petitioners immediately filed a lawsuit against the town's Planning Board. Presently, these individuals are named in the lawsuit against the Town of Antrim: Alexander Snow, Carol Snow, Greg Perry, Sissel Perry, Douglas Stone, Amy-Zaluki-Stone. These individuals are costing Antrim taxpayers extensive legal fees that should have been totally avoided. And of course these are

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## ANTRIM CAN REZONE ROUTE 9

By Greg A. Perry

Most people believe that business development lowers taxes, because businesses can pay taxes without the burdens of family services. If this is true, then why do the more developed towns have higher taxes? Concord, Nashua, Portsmouth, Bedford, and Merrimack certainly have more businesses than Antrim, but Antrim residents pay less taxes on an average home than the residents of those communities pay on an average home. Why? Because service costs increase as development increases. Taxes are a response by towns and government to cover their spending obligations. According to "Managing Growth", printed in 2005 by The Trust for Public Land, none of the developed towns in New Hampshire have significantly lower taxes than Antrim on an average home. In fact, the less developed towns have lower taxes.

The section of Route 9 that is being considered for rezoning has attracted 3 businesses. PB&H Equipment, Hancock Glassworks, and Todds Big Dog hot dog trailer. Also, a sawmill has been approved. All are viable businesses, fitting the character of this section of Route 9. But the taxes paid on these properties are lower than many of the homes in this same area. As for the upcoming sawmill, Antrim cannot expect significant tax relief from it. As for this Highway Business district, homeowners pay almost all of the taxes, as compared to what the businesses pay. If this area is rezoned, the taxes for the homeowners and businesses do not change; they remain the same. Obviously, the actual "land use" is not Highway Business, and this is not a tax issue.

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## ANTRIM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Todd E. Feyrer

### POLICE GRANTS

ment, and Park & Recreation Department, for less cash outlay to the Town (and therefore, the taxpayers) than the cost of one new truck for the Highway Department if we stayed with our old methods of purchasing equipment. We estimate that our cost savings will be in excess of \$50,000 per year for five years, and we will be reducing our maintenance cost by over \$12,000 per year.

Our equipment cost will be spread over several years, so those residents living in Antrim over the time of the lease will pay the cost instead of just the residents living in town today. Furthermore, this new equipment will better prepare us for handling the demands of the growth we are expecting over the next five to ten year period.

Under the State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration requirements, lease payments are considered a current operating expense, not long-term debt. This in turn means that while major capital expenditures for heavy duty equipment will not be brought to Town Meeting, they will be a line item in our operating budget, and will be thoroughly reviewed by the department heads and the Board of Selectmen. The expenditures will then be subject to review by Antrim's taxpayers at the annual Budget Hearing as they were on January 30<sup>th</sup> of this year.

With a planned equipment replacement plan in place, Antrim can look forward to a more efficient fleet management system, an improvement in services, more environmentally friendly and efficient equipment, a level amount of cost each year, and a vast reduction in employee frustration levels, not to mention the favorable taxpayer savings that this program provides.

The other alternate financing program is to establish "**Revolving Funds**" for the Park & Recreation Department and for the Ambulance Services provided by the Fire Department. These funds were requested by both departments and are supported by the Board of Selectmen.

What they do is provide a method to capture the payments from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties for the fees collected for the programs or services rendered. This will have no direct cost to the Town or to the individual taxpayer. Park & Recreation would charge a fee for a sports program, just as it does now, and this money would go into the fund to pay for the cost of the recreation department programs. This cost would no longer be part of the Town budget. In the case of the Ambulance, any fees collected by our Ambulance billing service would go directly into the Ambulance revolving account and would be used to offset the cost of providing ambulance service. The fees are allowed to carry over from year to year and the spending is controlled by the department heads, who are required to get the Board of Selectmen's approval before spending any monies out of the specific fund. This will require more fiscal controls by our department heads and tougher approval standards by our Board of Selectmen. We believe that both of these funds will be of benefit to the Town because they use fees collected to pay for the cost and services provided and they can be carried over from year to year.

If you have any questions on any of our programs please feel free to contact us at Town Hall and we will be more than happy to discuss these programs with you and answer any questions you may have. ❖

Budget season is here which means yet another year has flown by. One area in particular I would like to comment on is something that our Town Administrator Bill Prokop spoke about during the "dry run" of the annual Town budget meeting. His comment was "How can the Town afford to do all of these projects without a significant cost to the taxpayers?" He went on to explain that over 2 million dollars have been brought into the town in the form of "free money", also known as grants. I would like to give you some more information on this topic, specifically as it relates to the police department and grants that we have received and that we shall apply for in the future.

As people who run businesses will tell you, they want to have a professional and thriving establishment. Obviously one main goal is to make money. As chief of police, I too want to have a professional and thriving department. However, as we all know, my business is not to make money. Our agency can only thrive by assistance and support from you. Although we would love to have all the best equipment, technology and bells and whistles out there, we also know that this cannot happen and we must be practical about how money is spent. Therefore, when we do need that "extra piece of equipment" or need to increase speed enforcement or DWI detection, we must look outside the box and seek out alternative funding. This ultimately leads us to federal and state grants.

There have been numerous grants awarded to the Antrim Police Department in the recent past. All of us know about the \$6,000 awarded for the speed trailer, which by the way is ordered and should be here soon. We have received Speed Enforcement and DWI Detection Grants in the amount of \$3,600. This is money that gives us the opportunity to put extra officers on the streets for these enforcement purposes. The most recent grant has been for just under \$7,000 for the purchase of Tasers. Money has been given to the department for OHRV (4-wheeler) patrols. A grant, with a 50% reimbursement, enabled the purchase of Tire Deflation Devices for each cruiser.

In addition to the extra patrols on the street and the new equipment the department has obtained, there are many intangible benefits to these grants that a lot of us may not be aware of. These benefits are just as much for the officer and department, as they are for the Town and its citizens. Depending on the particular grant, our officers' morale is increased as they are reminded that they belong to a progressive and professional police department that is looking out for their interests. Officer safety can be increased, as is the case with the Tasers and Tire Deflation Devices. Public perception may be improved as town residents realize that the police department is not stagnant but is always looking to improve. One of the more prominent benefits to the town is the reduction in liability and workman's compensation costs, specifically concerning the use of force.

Although the application process and constant follow up with grants can be involved and time consuming, the end result is a win-win situation for all of us. We must also not lose sight of the fact that if we don't apply for the money, someone else will. ❖

## THE BEST OF TIMES...FOR LIBRARY GROWTH

Sharon Dowling- Chair, Library Board of Trustees

The James A. Tuttle Library in Antrim is a happening kind of place! A look at recent statistics shows a town that uses and appreciates the services and collections found at the library—despite the overcrowding, close quarters, lack of workspace, lack of accessibility for disabled patrons, potentially unsafe and definitely not “up to code” areas of the building! Not only does the Tuttle Library circulate twice the national average number of items per person, but the use of the public computer has tripled (and rarely sits idle), and inter-library loans have doubled!

Can you imagine a Tuttle Library with a Children’s Room designed to be truly accessible to the children? Not only with plenty of room for lots of books and materials, but with flexible stacks that allow for ample room for the children and special programs? But best of all, for the non-children who may be visiting with the hope of some quiet browsing and reading time, a Children’s room located such that noise level is minimized to the rest of the space? The community has been hard at work trying to make space and programs available to our school children after school hours—not every child needs, or wants, to join in another planned activity, but can benefit from the chance to use the safe library environment and its resources, providing there is adequate space.

Can you imagine a Tuttle Library that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act? Right now, anyone who struggles with stairs cannot access the Historical Society/meeting room upstairs, nor the non-fiction stacks downstairs. A wheelchair barely makes it in the backdoor, and into the bathroom, but cannot navigate through most of the library because of the closeness of the bookshelves. Would you like to browse the bottom shelves in the fiction section? Right now you do it on your knees—which is how our staff has to reshelf the books in that section!

Can you imagine a Tuttle Library that has up-to-date and energy efficient heating/cooling/and humidifying systems to keep patrons, staff, the computers, and collection in tip-top condition? An enlarged public computer area? Safe and adequate parking?

Can you imagine a Tuttle Library growing an additional 4,000 sq ft, and doing all these amazing things, while affecting Antrim’s taxes in the smallest way possible? It can be done! With the aid of our hard working Town Administrator, the support of our Selectmen, advice from the CIP committee and a local contractor or two, and some kind folks in Sanbornton, a wonderful plan for expansion and renovation has taken shape. Twenty years ago a great group of Antrim’s leaders looked at the long range needs



of the library. Ten years ago the library staff and Trustees knew the needs had reached critical proportions. Since then, much time and energy has been spent in research and possible designs. At this point, before interest rates go any higher, or building supplies are priced out of reach, while Antrim is financially well situated in terms of other debt or financial commitments—this is the BEST time to go forward with a plan that will serve the residents of Antrim for the next 25-50 years at least.

Before deciding which way to cast your ballot at the Town Meeting on March 16, 2006 on the Tuttle Library Bond, PLEASE take the time to check out the facts. Library staff and Trustees are more than willing and anxious to answer questions about the necessity of this project. Everyone involved in this project is an Antrim taxpayer, and mindful of the economic situation in the region. The expansion can benefit every Antrim resident, can help attract the right kind of growth to the town, can truly become the “heart of the community” as its original builders nearly 100 years ago intended. We can only write the next chapter with your vote and support—please plan to attend this year’s Town Meeting and show that you do indeed “Treasure Your Library”. ❖

### Antrim Can Rezone Route 9 continued from page 3

*My point is that the actual interest in “land use” for this section of Route 9 is not reflected in the current zoning.* Highway Business zoning has not attracted businesses; family homes are supporting the area. Families moved to this part of Route 9, because it was beautiful, available, and affordable. In the past, conservation of this area was important. Apparently some of the residential properties have deed restrictions promoting conservation and limiting business development. Also, many areas of this section of Route 9 are conservation land already. It is a recognized conservation area that should be protected for and from the future.

In conclusion, business development does not lower taxes long term. Antrim has a Highway Business District running through the middle of a recognized conservation area. In this Highway Business District, homeowners pay most of the property taxes, as compared to the businesses. Zoning and ordinances should consider actual “land use” and protect residents.

I am asking you to consider the actual “land use” for this section of Route 9 and protect it for the future. If you would like to maintain and preserve the rural character of Route 9, Vote, “Yes” to Rezoning. ❖

• The second is the petitioned zoning change to rezone a section of Route 9 from HIGHWAY BUSINESS TO RURAL CONSERVATION. A similar change was proposed last year and was defeated.

The Selectmen do not favor these changes, the first to forestall potential school tax increases based on a formula change; and the second based on the fact that the Town's Master Plan is in the process of being updated and a review of current zoning is being undertaken by the Planning Board.

The first Budget/Bond hearing in preparation for Town Meeting 2006 was held at Town Hall on Monday, January 30, with presentations by the Town Administrator, and the Board of Trustees of the Tuttle Library.

Bill Prokop began with an explanation of the revenue available to the town from federal and state sources which funds a variety of town projects without impacting the real property tax.

Among these, were the funding for the downtown sidewalk, drainage, street lighting and paving improvements which started last year, a grant reimbursing the Highway Department for snow removal, a grant to the Fire Department for equipment and for the cleanup due to the floods of 2005. He also mentioned the grant which enabled the Girl's Shelter to expand its facility and the fact that the town was paid an administration fee and will benefit from increased property taxes in the future. In presenting the budget for 2006 these outside revenue sources will provide an estimated \$1,700,000 to permit Antrim to continue major improvement projects without impacting real property taxes.

Two warrants were presented which would create Revolving Accounts for the Recreation Department and the Fire Department ambulance service. The purpose of these accounts is to hold monies received from billings for services and to accrue the unspent balances of these funds from year to year. These accounts are not part of the General Account of the town and are intended to make these departments self sustaining without additional funding from the town.

The estimated net tax effect of the 2006 budget will be a modest 19 cents per thousand increase in the tax rate. This translates to an increase of \$19.00 per \$100,000 of valuation.

During the budget presentation a question was raised regarding the use of part time personnel in the town. We wish to stress that the use of part time employees is on an as needed basis only and is either previously budgeted for, or is paid directly from outside revenue. The use of part timers enables the town to operate efficiently without the need for additional staffing with a resulting increase in full time salary and benefit costs, or to depend on the excessive use of overtime. In any event,

the spending of town money is monitored by the appropriate department heads, the Town Administrator, the Selectmen, and the taxpayers at the annual Budget Hearing.

The Trustees of the Tuttle Library presented their proposal for the expansion of the library to coincide with the 2008 centennial of the existing building. The expansion will be a two story addition of 4,000 square feet on a 2,000 square foot footprint to the south of the existing building. The cost of the project is estimated at \$946,000, of which \$850,000 will be a bond and the remainder will be from the Library Capital Reserve Account. In addition, the Trustees are planning fund raising activities the proceeds from which will be used to reduce the bond debt.

The selectmen are recommending these warrant articles and ask you to approve them. REMEMBER THESE DATES: March 14<sup>th</sup> is Ballot day and March 16<sup>th</sup> is Town Meeting

**BOTH ARE IMPORTANT, PLEASE PLAN TO VOTE AND ATTEND AND EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS AND OPINIONS. ❖**

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS**

When recently I answered a knock at my door, there stood two men, one a stranger, the other Antrim's Gordon Webber. Gordon introduced me to his friend John Trautwine from Peterborough and dropped the word "Galapagos." "Come in," I said, "my granddaughter Anna is doing a college semester in the Galapagos Islands." Somehow, John seemed to know that, and handed me a letter from Anna, without postage, addressed to me in Antrim, N.H. "How in the world did you get this?" I asked, and John explained.

For centuries, there's been a tradition that whalers working near the Galapagos Islands would visit Post Office Bay where mail could be picked up by passing ships. Sailors bound for England, or Boston or other ports would pick up mail for delivery near their homes.

Now Anna, for the heck of it, had addressed a letter to me and left it at Post Office Bay, never really thinking that anyone would actually pick it up and deliver it. It seemed a bit like sealing a message inside a bottle and dropping it off a ship in the middle of the ocean. But it *was* picked up—by a friend of John Trautwine's named Nathan who knew that *John's* friend, Gordon Webber, lived in Antrim and that Antrim was near Peterborough. So Nathan sent Anna's letter to John with a covering note: "We would ask if you would please see to its safe hand delivery. We felt that the addressee may be close to Gordon; perhaps we might also ask his assistance with this trusted task."

And it was a delightful letter. Thank you Nathan, John and Gordon for making sure that I received it.

— Dick Winslow

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## EDITORIAL

With this issue of the Limrik we say goodbye to two dedicated members of the staff and welcome a new member. Fred Roberts, who has been Treasurer and long time Limrik member, says it is time for a rest. It will not be the same Limrik without Fred. Pam Caswell, who has so ably served as Advertising Manager, will devote more time to her family. She will be missed as well. New to the Limrik is computer and software expert Ral Burgess who has redesigned for the electronic age—and will manage—both the Treasurer and Advertising positions.

Also, we introduce two new features we hope to continue in future issues: a book review (p. 8) and a student essay (p. 18).

— Lyman Gilmore

### GBS STUDENTS' WINTER POETRY

#### COLD HANDS

By: Shianne McQuade

Numbness takes over  
Wet cold hands,  
Sticky powdery snow.

**Now Accepting New Patients**  
*Same day appointments available*

## ANTRIM MEDICAL GROUP

*A Full-Service Family Medical Practice  
Serving the Community Since 1947*

### **Welcome Dr. Carrie Klonel**

*Prior to joining the Antrim practice, Dr. Carrie Klonel was the Chief Resident in the family practice residency program at St. Joseph Medical Center in Reading, PA. Dr. Klonel received her medical degree from the University of New England, College of Osteopathic Medicine and her bachelor of science from Cornell University.*



**Hours:** Monday to Friday 9 - 12, 1 - 5

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**ANTRIM**  
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 **Monadnock Community Hospital**  
*Care comes first*

## ANTRIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### BACKS LIBRARY EXPANSION

By Janet MacLachlan, President

Despite the chilling rain falling outside, members of the Antrim Historical Society gathered at the Town Hall on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. for its first meeting of 2006

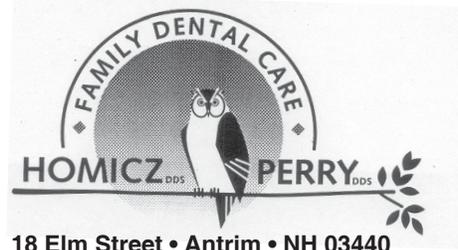
First item on the agenda was an interesting Power Point program by Diane Chauncey showing pictures of some of the old homes taken from the David Hurlin collection of Antrim Homes. Nina Harding is presently supplementing this work to bring it up to date. Plans are underway to expand this into a future program for the town. Newcomers who are curious about the old homes they have purchased would find this study very helpful in tracing the history of their new home.

Ron Haggett spoke on the bond issue to enlarge and renovate the Tuttle Library by 2008, which will be its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. After some discussion a motion was made and seconded that the Historical Society should rally in support of this project to help pass the bond issue. It was unanimously voted and passed.

Ever since it was founded in 1984, the Historical Society has been located in the upstairs room of the library. Special locked display cabinets have been built in order that valuable items could be shown without fear of damage or loss, and rotating exhibits are made available to the public. These exhibits will be more accessible with the installation of the proposed elevator. There is a vast amount of information about Antrim and its history stored upstairs, but some people find the stairs a deterrent. Because the library is open 6 days a week, it makes a good source of research data for those who come looking for historical or genealogical information. They can find much of what they want upstairs in the Historical Society's room.

A box of leather-bound diaries written by Elroy Perkins back to the 1800s was presented to the Society by his grandson James Perkins of Charlestown, NH. Elroy's everyday accounts of farm life in those days make an interesting comparison for those farming today. It was suggested that as a future program we should have a hayride at Chauncey Farm Stand and a tour of the farm and land with Stacia Dziengowski Muir, a former resident who grew up on the farm. Watch for a date to be set for this summer program.

The next meeting of the Historical Society will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. At that time there will be an election of officers and a special program to be announced. Everyone is welcome to attend. ❖



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## TOWN HISTORY REVISITED ANTRIM'S MAIN STREET FIFTY YEARS AGO

By Eric Tenney

Believe it or not, I was not born in Antrim. I was born in Massachusetts and came to Antrim via Frankestown when my father returned to his hometown. As a ten-year-old thinking about where I had previously lived, I considered Antrim a "metropolis." Here's a view of Main Street thru the eyes of a fifth grader as he walked to school in the morning fifty years ago.

My trip began at our house down on Depot Street at what was known in those days as Stan Tenney's farm. At the corner of Water Street you could hear the Goodell sawmill running in the building known today as Cogworks. Walking up the Depot Street hill I sometimes met Marty Nichols on his way to the Goodell office. At the top of Depot Street you could see and hear some of the activity at Goodell Company. Finally passing the upper Goodell parking lot at the top of Depot Street, I crossed Route 202 to the sidewalk on the west side of Main Street.

The next commercial building I passed was Proctor's Store where the beauty salon is today. Proctor's (as it was called) combined a small 7-11 type store and little restaurant. "Bud" had the best vanilla coke in town. The other feature that always intrigued me was how the grease was removed from the griddle. The Goodell canal passed under the back of the store where the restaurant was located, and as they scraped the griddle clean they dumped all the grease through a hole in the floor directly into the canal. (The town did not have a municipal sewer in those days).

The next building (now gone) was Cutters' Meat Market which was later converted to apartments and became known as "Dodge City." The building was in such disrepair that a group of citizens bought it, tore it down and gave the land to the town for a parking lot, now next to the video store.

Continuing north I passed an automotive garage where "Good Times Café building now stands. All sorts of car and truck parts were stacked between the sidewalk and the building. (The town had no zoning in 1955.)

Next to the garage was the hardware store that never seemed to have much to sell. Everyone was happy when Edmunds purchased the store. Next to Edmunds was Archie Swett's house on the corner of Summer Street. Archie was the town clerk who operated out of his house. If you registered a car you went to his house, not the town hall. The house on the other corner of Summer Street contained the telephone company. In Antrim in the 1950's you called the operator to make a phone call. The operator then rang the number you gave her. Because they were located on Main Street, the operators saw most people pass by so they knew who was at home and who wasn't. Many times they would tell you "I just saw so-and-so pass by, so don't waste your time calling them." (A great customer service!)

I turned left on to Summer Street—which has changed little—and walked up to the new elementary school, now the older part of Great Brook School facing the top of Summer Street.

The east side of Main Street from Aiken Street to Summer Street until very recently has changed very little. Next time (the June issue) we will start at Summer Street and continue to work our way north on Main Street. ❖

## OUR ENDANGERED VALUES: America's Moral Crisis

By Jimmy Carter  
297pp. Simon and Schuster \$25.00

Reviewed by Dick Winslow

Jimmy Carter's new best-selling book, *Our Endangered Values*, could easily have been turned into an Old Testament rant crying "Doom!" so serious and dangerous does he consider certain flaws in our national behavior that he sees and describes—the erosion of the historic barrier between Church and State, for instance. Instead, what we have is a presentation of these flaws in a spirit of, "Let's fix'em!" Carter is very much a New Testament personality, passionately devoted to scriptures of forgiveness, particularly those that detail actions of Jesus confronted with flawed people.

This ex-President, out of office since '81, may be the world's busiest man. Along with running his Carter Center in Atlanta, Ga. that constantly requires his presence overseas to help prevent conflicts and monitor elections—he was, for instance, in Palestine for the recent election that brought Hamas to power—he writes books (*Our Endangered Values*, a runaway best seller, is his twentieth), makes furniture and paints pictures to sell at auction to help support the Center, maintains a peanut farm, and manages to return to his home town, Plains, Ga., 35 to 40 times a year to teach Sunday School in the Maranatha Baptist Church there. This is a church that welcomes Jews and Muslims as well as almost any Christian sect imaginable. One of Carter's deepest concerns about all religions, including his own Christianity, is "a remarkable trend" which encourages adherents to think that "Since I am aligned with God, I am superior and my beliefs should prevail, and anyone who disagrees with me is inherently wrong. ... That tendency has

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created throughout the world intense religious conflicts.” He says we should resist this and treat “people who are different from us with care, generosity, compassion, and unselfish love.”

### EROSION OF CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION

He is alarmed at the degree to which some Christian groups have entered politics, joined forces with right-wing conservative politicians, and moved deliberately to erode Church-State separations as well as the independence of the judiciary. He pulls no punches, naming names and describing actions. He quotes the Rev. Pat Robertson, for instance, as saying about Church-State separation, “There is no such thing in the Constitution. It’s a lie of the left, and we’re not going to take it anymore’...Robertson repeatedly attacks public schools and calls for their replacement with religious academies.” Carter reports how conservative officials in Washington, such as Sen. Bill Frist, frustrated with the independence of the judiciary, injected themselves into “the highly controversial Terri Schiavo case after nearly 20 judges, most of them conservative jurists appointed by Republicans, had maintained...their refusal to extend her life artificially.” Carter says that Frist, a medical doctor, looked briefly at a videotape of Ms. Schiavo, then made a pronouncement in favor of extending her life which subsequently proved to be medically ludicrous. And Rep. Tom Delay, “enraged with the judges, issued threats of imposing legislative control over state and federal courts.”

### WIDENING GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

An ever-widening gap between the incomes of rich and poor is seen by Carter as eroding American values, whether it be national or international. “The greatest challenge we face is the growing chasm between the rich and poor people on earth....At the beginning of the last century, the ten richest countries were nine times wealthier than the ten poorest ones. In 1960 the ratio was 30:1. At the beginning of this century (the ratio was) 131:1!” That’s on the international scene. Here at home, there is also a problem and a growing one. The ratio of income in the U.S. between the top and bottom one fifth of our population is 11:1. In France it is 7:1 and in Japan 4:1. Carter writes: “Still, almost every decision made in Washington since 2000 has favored the wealthy, often at the expense of middle-class working families and the needy, and the fundamental legislation on taxation and expenditures has been designed to perpetuate

these trends. (And) our unprecedented deficits mean there will be fewer funds for maintaining—much less increasing—existing levels for health, education, welfare, housing, environmental quality, or the creation of jobs.”

### ABORTION AND FAMILY PLANNING.

Carter: “Of all the sharply debated moral and political issues in America, abortion is the most divisive. Emotions run deep .. and they permeate both our domestic and foreign policy.” After establishing his own basic position as being (a) against abortion but (b) recognizing that it is sometimes necessary—as President, he never hesitated to uphold *Roe v. Wade*—he recommends policies that would prevent unwanted pregnancies, promote effective sex education for teenagers, and assure good health care for new mothers and their babies; and he spells out the results of improper sex education amongst American girls. “They are five times as likely to have a baby as French girls and seven times as likely to have an abortion; and they are 70 times as likely to have gonorrhea as girls in the Netherlands. Also, the incidence of HIV/AIDS among American teenagers is five times that of the same age group in Germany.” And greatly distressing Carter are Congressmen who legislate against reasonable sex education here in the U.S. and add insult to injury by legislating against the use of foreign aid for any form of family planning in poor nations abroad. He observes that this is “counterproductive if the purpose of development assistance is to ease pain and suffering, improve the lives of adults, and to reduce the infant mortality rate.”

### OTHER ENDANGERED VALUES

Other endangered values that Carter examines involve women’s rights, civil liberties in the presence of terrorist threats, flawed nuclear policies that have the effect of increasing the use of nuclear weapons by other countries, the use of preemptive force, mistreatment of the environment, misuse of the death penalty and firearms, and distortions of American foreign policy that have isolated the U.S. in the world. In each case, he methodically examines facts and spells out ramifications. His tireless recitation of details could be stultifying, but the context is so lively, informed and challenging that the reader is kept constantly alert. Carter fears that the nation is squandering its treasure, both moral and economic; and his fear tends to be galvanizing.

Tuttle Library has a copy of *Our Endangered Values* as well as an audiotape. ❖

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## ANNE HENNESSY AND WOOL

By Dick Winslow

Eight or ten people usually attend the weekly "Drop In" session at Anne Hennessy's *Wool Room* at Meadow Brook Farm on Pleasant Street. They bring with them whatever they're working on—knitting, spinning, crocheting—simply for the pleasure of each other's company while they're working.

*The Wool Room*, established in 1984 by Anne and her husband Brian in their 18<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse, not only provides an appropriate atmosphere for meetings, it is also full of wool-related things for sale—yarns, fibers, knitting needles, spinning equipment, books, and a boutique with socks, mittens, tams, caps, vests, and shawls. And it houses, besides, Anne's spinning and knitting workshops.

The sheer attractiveness of the *Wool Room* (Loranne Carey Block refers to it as "cozy and homey") may be illuminated by this Diane Kendall story: When, in 1997, she and her husband John were house-hunting, they noticed the *Wool Room* sign at the corner of Rte. 202 and Pleasant Street, checked it out, and were so intrigued that they decided there and then to look for property where they could raise sheep and produce wool fiber. They found the Over East Farm on Elm Ave. (previously owned by the late Evelyn Perry), bought it, installed Corriedale and Rambouillet sheep, and now sell the fibers for knitting, spinning, and felting.

Diane, who had never before knitted, discovered that Anne was "a patient and wonderful knitting teacher" by a surprising process. "I took my children to a Grapevine parenting group. While the children were busy with their playgroups, ten of us mothers were just sitting around doing nothing, so I suggested we get Anne to come teach us to knit. We all loved it. Anne is such a wonderful teacher. Four of us are now members of the Monadnock Knitters Guild."

Mention of the Knitters Guild prompts the following list of Hennessy-related items:

Item: *The Monadnock Knitters Guild* was started in 1989 by Anne with Loranne Carey Block, Diane Chauncey and Cindy Ryer. Participants from all over the Monadnock region continue to meet monthly, until recently at the Tuttle Library, presently at The Grapevine.

Item: The annual fall *Wool Arts Tour*, which last October attracted a thousand visitors, was started in 1984 by Anne with Diane Chauncey and Hope Thomas. This is a tour of farms where animals are raised and studios where products are made out of their fibers. Last fall's brochure stated: "Over the years, faces and places have changed and different species of fiber animals

 continued on page 16

## PROACTIVE ANTRIM'S POLICE FORCE

By: Chief Todd Feyrer

When I was interviewed for the position of Police Chief the search committee and the Board of Selectmen asked me to develop a plan to have a proactive department rather than a reactive one. There are numerous benefits to this philosophy that have been proven over and over again in the law enforcement arena.

With the Board's agreement, we felt it necessary to address certain objectives including the obvious need for increased coverage and with the minimal impact on the Town's budget. By the time you are reading this we will be having 16 hours more per week of physical coverage on the streets, than we had last year at this time. Officers are no longer working a 36 hour work week with "on call" time; they will be working at least 40 hours per week on patrol, performing proactive and traditional police duties.

Now the question is "Do we have 24-hour police coverage?" The answer is yes, with limited assistance from State Police and our neighboring mutual aid agreements. Like all our surrounding towns, the amount of coverage supplied by State Police is minimal and over time I hope will continue to reduce even more. In addition, a supervisor is on call and available twenty-four hours per day, seven days a week in the event of a critical or serious incident.

Prior to my arrival three part-time police officers were hired on a "temporary" basis and these positions were to be dissolved when the department was up to full staff. However, after a full review with the Board of Selectmen it was agreed to keep these three positions on a permanent basis. It was felt that with the shortage of qualified police officers in the state, it would be better for the Town to have officers who were familiar with the Town, and who could fill in as needed, and at the same time keep down the cost of overtime and other benefit expenses. Therefore, the amount of overtime, and holiday pay was reduced, while protecting the Town by having competent and trained police officers to draw from.

I hope this explains how the Antrim Police Department is moving forward in a proactive, professional and progressive manner. This is being done in a way which answers the residents request for more coverage, more police services, and at a manageable and reasonable cost. I hope you will feel free to contact me at anytime with suggestions as to how we may be able to serve you better. ❖

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## GLEANINGS

By Agricola

### Edna Paige: The Lady Who Walked

(February 12 1933 – November 17 2005)

#### She Walked In Grace

By Dick Winslow

She walked up and down Main Street  
She walked along the highways  
She walked in the woods  
She walked in the fields  
She walked all day  
She walked all night  
Instead of talking, she walked  
She walked in the sun  
She walked in the rain  
She walked in the snow  
She always wore a broad-brimmed hat over a scarf tied under her chin  
She always looked at the ground  
She always seemed to be thinking  
Sometimes she'd lean up against the railing of  
a bridge—thinking  
Sometimes she'd lean up against a tree—thinking  
Then she'd walk some more  
She always walked very slowly



#### THE LADY WHO WALKED MEETS A JOGGER

I did not know Edna Paige personally, I did not even know her name. But we did have a strange sort of relationship. For years when I was jogging and she was walking, we would encounter each other almost every day. I would be glad to see her even though we would not speak. I always wondered what she thought of this large hairy man slogging along in her path.

— Lyman Gilmore

#### DIANE CHAUNCEY DISCOVERS SOME HISTORY

The other week I was talking with pumpkin farmer Diane Chauncey who told me of a recent discovery. Seems Diane was up to Nina Harding's on Pleasant Street talking about some Historical Society business. "On Nina's kitchen table was an impressive project. She is completing David Hurlin's Antrim House study of the 1990's in which David researched the history of every house in Antrim in terms of its builder and the people who had lived in it. Nina is expanding the project by including photographs of the houses, adding street numbers, and updating owners. With coat and gloves on, I was ready to leave when Nina said, 'Oh, there's one more thing I want to show you.'

She went to the card table (that stores all the Historical Society stuff) behind the kitchen table, and came up with the most beautiful dovetailed cornered box. The name of James Elroe Perkins is burned into its cover, and within the hinged box are 32 small leather diaries of many, many years. I was astounded, and just looked at them, thinking how strange that not only did someone actually keep this many diaries, but that they were all in one beautiful box and bequeathed to the Historical Society. Nina said, 'Pick one up and look at it.' I felt honored. The diary I opened was filled with details of 19<sup>th</sup> century farm life: "cut half a cord of wood, brought in some hay, planted carrots, etc." But what I especially noticed was page after page of "rainy day, very rainy day," and as I skimmed through the year, I kept noticing the "Rain" entries. The year was 1886, and suddenly I realized that 1886 had been the wettest year on record until 2005 broke that record. As a farmer for whom rain is so important, I was amazed to discover that James Elroe Perkins kept this diary that could mean so much to me one hundred and nineteen years later." (The diary of another 19<sup>th</sup> century farmer, Dennison Gould, covering the years 1817-1865, and privately published under the title, *Rains Finely Today*, is available at the Tuttle Library.) ❖

## FYI FROM CENS

By Sharon Dowling

On December 15, members of the Community Education Network and Support group attended the NH Connections workshop in Keene. A representative from PIC (Parent Information Center) led a presentation focusing on Learning Disabilities that included a fascinating video and the demonstration of PIC's "Disability Awareness Kit". The video entitled "F.A.T.City" was produced at the Eagle Hill School in Greenwich, CT, which is a private school specializing in teaching LD kids, and is available to borrow through the Family Resource Center of the NH State Library. The video clearly demonstrates the kind of "frustration-anxiety- and tension" (the "F.A.T." of the title) that students who have a processing deficit live with everyday in the typical classroom. It was not fancy, but absolutely mind expanding—everyone who deals with children should see it!

The Disability Awareness Kit gave all the workshop participants an opportunity to feel learning disabled—another mind blowing experience! Since 6-10% of all US students suffer from learning disabilities, addressing them properly makes a lot of sense. Some school systems do test for different learning styles, but most do not. The tragedy is, if a children are not taught to read, write, and do arithmetic with confidence BEFORE they are passed onto middle school, it is very difficult to remediate the problems in the upper grades. After about the age of 10, the brain changes in the way it learns certain things, and the best window of opportunity is lost. Hiring lots of Special Ed Aides in the middle school and high school years to help "get them through" may aid in classroom discipline, but rarely prepares the student to be successful in the outside world.

In the coming months, CENS would like to host workshops with NH Connections and PIC. Information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, questions or concerns about your local schools can be addressed by contacting Sharon at toll free 1-877-894-1566 and leaving a message. ❖

#### SIGN AT HARDWARE STORE

When the only tool you own is  
a hammer, every problem  
begins to look like a nail.

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

By Celeste Lunetta

Winter 2005-2006 has seen lots of activity and excitement at the Recreation Department. Our regular programs, Youth and Adult Basketball, Family Fun Nights, Adult Volleyball, Pilates, and Indoor Walking, shared the recreation facilities with new programs. We continued hosting the Before School Club, and the After School Club for Middle School. We also started an after school program for elementary school kids. The tree lighting was attended by well over 100 children and was again a success thanks to the wonderful efforts of our Friends of Recreation volunteers. We had a wonderful turnout for our Children's Chorus performance of The Polar Express. Many thanks to Kim Stearns for once again leading this group of young singers. The annual Fire and Ice Festival was rescheduled in hopes of some wintry weather taking over in February, and we are sure to have had a fun day by the time you read this article. We also had ski trips to Loon and Crotched Mountain.

Upcoming programs include a spring youth chorus (ages 7-12, March 6—May 1 on Mondays), After School Cup Stacking, after School Circus Arts, Cal Ripken Baseball and Babe Ruth Softball, Pitch Hit and Run, and more. Please check the town website frequently for program information.

As town meeting approaches, you will see proposed changes in the Recreation operating budget as well as some warrant articles for recreation programs. Here are some Recreation proposals for this year:

The Recreation Commission wishes to establish a Recreation Revolving Fund. This would allow the registration fees for programs from youth sports, summer camps, and bus trips to be put into a special fund, separate from the town general fund. This would remove the costs of these programs from the operating budget of the department, and from the tax base. Program participants will pay the costs for youth sports, recreation trips, camps, and most vacation programs. The revolving fund is fiscally managed through the town, the Board of Selectmen, the Recreation Director, and the Recreation Commission. The revolving fund gives the Recreation Department an advantage in that programs can be planned all year, rather than the current system of predict-

ing all programs, including participation numbers and the associated costs, only at the annual budget planning time. It also allows the programs to be responsive to surges and dips in enrollment. Money that is generated over the cost of a program can be put back into that same program for long-term expenditures. Fees generated by a program will allow that program to grow. Many New Hampshire municipalities already use the Recreation Revolving Fund, and it provides tremendous support to Recreational programming.

Additionally, the Recreation Commission has submitted Article 18 for continued improvements to Shea Field which include six by twenty-four foot dugouts, aluminum team benches, and the final cost of fencing improvements. The ConVal School Board has committed to sharing in these costs, and this is the third year the district and the town have cooperated to improve turf and facilities at Shea Field. The district has accepted approximately one-third of field improvement costs in the last two years, and this year it is paying \$6,000 or half of the costs.

We also have some information from the Recreation Land Committee on the West Street Project. In November 2004 an initial offer by the Gould Trust was received to sell a plot of land on West Street to town of Antrim. In March 2005 a warrant article for such purchase was passed at the Town Meeting. This committee has logged many hours as they worked to obtain the most beneficial agreement between the town and the Trust. The site has been visited numerous times to identify areas that are most conducive to the development of athletic fields. In July 2005 members of the Gould Trust traveled from the West Coast and visited the site and discussed conceptual plans with the committee members and selectman. Finalization of the Purchase and Sale agreement is now being worked out between the attorney for the Gould Trust and the Town's attorney. We are all hopeful that this will be resolved in the very near future.

We want you to be aware of our office hours and how to contact us. The Commission meets the first Thursday of the month at 7pm at the Rec Center. The office is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 8:30 to Noon, and on Tuesday evenings from 6-9 pm. You can call 588-3121, or email us at [antrimparks&rec@tds.net](mailto:antrimparks&rec@tds.net). ❖

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Rep. David Essex (D-Antrim)

### TOWN AND STATE CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO OCTOBER FLOODS

In one sense, the floods of last October are already part of New Hampshire—and Antrim—history. We will never forget the people we lost here and elsewhere, the roar of the water, the impassable roads, the damaged property, and our awe at nature's power. But while most of the story has been told, the final chapters have yet to be written.

One unresolved story line involves the response of our state government to the needs of the individuals and communities affected by the floods. We recall the heartening sight of Senate President Theodore Gatsas and House Speaker Douglas Scamman taking charge while Gov. John Lynch flew home from Germany, then the three of them touring the state together to coordinate the response on the ground. The Department of Transportation quickly repaired highways and bridges, while towns moved to fix their local infrastructures, often without any guarantee of state or federal aid.

The legislature sent out a fundraising letter to its members seeking donations to help individuals and families with their most practical needs. Then someone got the idea to raise serious money by holding a telethon on WMUR Channel 9. Residents from all over the state jammed the phone lines to pledge, and Antrim callers gave generously. The telethon brought in more than \$350,000, at least half of which has been transferred to a Keene social-service agency that understands the needs of people in southwest New Hampshire, has procedures in place to disburse the money fairly and effectively, and maintains strong relationships with charities like the Salvation Army. We are discussing putting another \$100,000 toward a federal grant for the land and infrastructure in Alstead to build a small neighborhood of six donated modular houses for families whose homes were destroyed.

When the Christmas season arrived, our own Antrim Ambulance and Fire Department was quick to help again, being among the first in the state to organize donations of toys and other gifts for Alstead families. As the legislature discussed its own response to the holiday season, the initiative of Antrim residents was well noted in the State House.

 continued on next page

Today, as many families still struggle to resume normal lives, town governments are also dealing with the aftermath of the floods. Our Antrim Selectmen, town administrator, and staff have been outstanding, working aggressively and diligently, first by assessing funding opportunities with state and federal emergency officials during and immediately after the floods. Now they are laboring over the paperwork needed to get Antrim all the aid it is entitled to. Most of the money could fund a mitigation project to build a new culvert to federal specifications that will minimize the chance that the White Birch Point neighborhood is ever again cut off by the rising waters of Gregg Lake and Great Brook.

The bottom line is there are still bills to be paid, and many leaders in state government want to help. One piece of legislation, House Bill 1765, proposed by Rep. John Gibson (whose hometown of Merrimack was not seriously affected) and six southwest New Hampshire legislators would pay the 12.5-percent match normally required of municipalities for grants

from federal agencies such as FEMA, an amount exceeding \$100,000 in Antrim's case. Gov. Lynch made a similar proposal in his State of the State address. In early February, the House Finance Committee heard testimony on the bill, including an overview of Antrim's expenses and mitigation project. The committee is expected to consider these and other flood-related proposals as a package, but on a slower track than some lawmakers and local officials had hoped for.

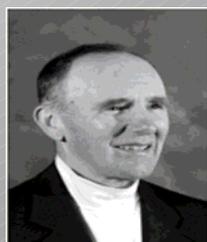
One can't help noticing the contrast between the response time of some—but in fairness, not all—state and federal bureaucrats, and our town workers and volunteers, especially the fire and rescue teams. I will never forget the look of watchful waiting on the faces of first responders from Antrim and nearby communities at the Route 9 and 31 intersection along the North Branch River, the day we lost Tom Mangieri to the raging waters. Some literally went to the edge to risk their lives trying to save Tom, a debt no one can ever fully repay. ❖

ing by lot lines rather than the current arbitrary 1,000-foot strip along the highway, creation of buffer zones to shield industrial buildings from view, possibly eliminating heavy industry that contributes to noise and pollution, and changing the sign ordinance. Their work will be coordinated with the Master Plan Committee, the Open Space Committee, and Southwest Regional Planning Commission which recently received a grant to study the Route 9 corridor from Stoddard to Hillsborough. They are charged with the objective of presenting the voters with a ballot item in 2007 concerning business zones throughout the town taking into account the concerns of the those residents in the areas and the best interest of the town to keep taxes as low as possible.

The Board asks that the voters vote no on the petition and permit them to work throughout 2006 to prepare a plan which balances the concerns of the residents with the economic needs of the Town and more importantly solicits public input from everyone. Anyone who would like information on the rezoning is encouraged to contact the Town Planner. ❖

Hi, I'm Nikki and I walk Wayne DeKoning all over town...stop and talk real estate anytime...He really knows his stuff!

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### A BROTHER'S MEMORY: IZI

By Charles Butterfield

Basketball season, 1940. A clear night, probably a Friday, seasonably cold. We walked a little over two miles from our farm to the Town Hall. My sister's team played a game against Wilton and then we walked home.

Not much to rest a memory on, but enough.

Izi was eight and a half years old when I was born. In addition, she was promoted a grade ahead of her age-mates because she invariably finished all her work ahead of the others, and when she was done she whistled tunes. More challenging work apparently solved the whistling problem. I tell you this by way of explaining the wide gap between us in 1940. She was a senior in high school when I was in third grade.

So, of course, we were different. She liked boys. I liked animals. She liked basketball. I liked Chinese Checkers. She liked to read. I preferred my Erector set. She could walk the two miles to the village in twenty-five minutes. It took me longer.

On any school day morning there was a long parade of us from Clinton on Route 31 with the older ones walking to the village far apart from the younger. A status thing.

But on this night the two of us walked together, roughly at the same pace. We were at the Town Hall in time for Izi to warm up with the team before the six o'clock game. I sat in the balcony, mostly by myself. Few people turned out for the girls' games. Izi played forward, and I looked down on her racing east to west and back again across the Town Hall floor with no trace of tiredness from our trek, a trek by the way, we had each made twice before that day, to school and home again. She was completely in the game until she stumbled and fell, suffer-

 continued on page 29

### IZZ AND AUNTIE BARB

By Barbara Butterfield Carll

Two things turned Izz on: Music and Babies. Kittens ran a close third. Whenever a fussy baby appeared at a family gathering, Izz would hold him and sing to him to quiet and contentment. If a new batch of kittens was found nestled in the hay, Izz was ecstatic.

Hiking was another of her pleasures. She loved climbing the various hills around Antrim. I was the lucky partner in many of those pleasant walks up Holt's Hill, Patten Hill, and especially Meeting House Hill. We loved exploring the early dirt roads and Izz would chat about the history of the place. She was an avid historian of Antrim. I marveled at her knowledge of the early schoolhouses scattered about some of the very remote areas.

Izz must have spent most of her leisure hours with the Antrim Historical Society books. She visited the town offices to study records of past events and buildings, interesting families, and changes that took place through the years. She read and she wrote and then, with her husband Martin, would go exploring to find the places she had read about. Sometimes I was the happy third party on these excursions.

As teenagers, Izz and I would spend much time on Meeting House Hill. When it was too windy we would snuggle down on the lee side of a granite ledge and eat our lunch and swap fam-

 continued on page 29

### THE GIFT OF IZI NICHOLS

By Ray Sweeney

Conval Director of Vocal Music and  
Teacher of Piano, Music Theory, and Composition

It isn't possible to reminisce about the good old days in the Antrim schools without thinking about Izi Nichols. From grade school on through high school there were so many of us who couldn't wait for the day that Mrs. Nichols would be coming to our classrooms. In the primary grades when we knew it was "music day" many of us would keep running to the window to see if she was driving in yet. When her car did finally appear in the parking area we could hardly contain ourselves until she made her entrance. And it always did seem like an entrance.

Perhaps it was only the perspective of a grammar school kid, but Mrs. Nichols seemed very glamorous—at once beautiful, imposing and, at times, threatening. One soon learned, however, that there was no need to feel threatened if one paid attention and didn't fool around too much—a lesson that, alas, some never seemed to master. *Then* you could be afraid! She would not hesitate to unleash her wrath on the more recalcitrant in her fold. Izi was not at all fond of students talking when they were supposed to be singing or paying attention to a "Music Appreciation" lesson. One didn't even dare get caught whispering at such times, but what she really had no patience for were those who spoke right out in loud tones. She wanted singing that way, but not inappropriate talking. "Stop using your big, outside voice!" she would say. This admonishment delivered, of course, in *her* big, outside voice.

But, oh, the music! She taught us countless songs. Her favorite songs to teach related to history. We learned as much

 continued on page 26

### A CHILDHOOD MEMORY ISABEL NICHOLS AS A TEENAGER.

By Winslow (Skeeze) Caughey

As a child the only opportunity I had to have much contact with Izi was when I received from her things I loved to eat. Izi and her younger brother Charlie lived with their parents Byron and Vera Butterfield at their farm on the east side of Route 31 just north of Clinton Village. My family lived up the road in our Antrim Center home directly across from the stone Congregational Church.

Byron enjoyed farming as time permitted and was the fine woodworker and craftsman who managed the Caughey and Pratt sawmill operations on Gregg Lake road. He was a very highly respected member of the Antrim community. I certainly admired him greatly especially when he constructed a roadside stand in which the home-made ice cream prepared by the family could be sold to the general public. Izi dispensed the ice cream to the great pleasure of many including me as my waistline revealed. Big multiple scoops on cones and liberal amounts of delicious stuff on cups were routine!

The desire to visit Izi was especially difficult to resist while playing within sight of her stand. This occurred when my friends and I were near her house on a property owned by my parents just below the Bass Farm. At the time the place had

 continued on page 29

# TUTTLE LIBRARY NEWS

By Melissa Lawless

## LIBRARY EXPANSION

Now is the time to go forward with library expansion. The Trustees have downsized expansion costs to accommodate a bare bones plan which will still comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements and provide us with the necessary space to house our collections, a Reading Room, and a Children's room. Please see the Trustee's article on page 5.

## MEDIA SURVEY

During the month of March, please take a moment to fill out our Media Survey telling us what kind of audio/visual equipment you have access to. With limited space and limited funds we find ourselves trying to make decisions about what formats you would like to borrow. Are you now using a DVD player? Do you still have a VCR? Did your car come with a CD player, or do you still have a tape player in your car on which you depend for your commute to work or your family car trip? We need to know how we can best serve you.

## AMNESTY WEEKS

Are there any of our library materials you never got around to returning gathering dust in a pile somewhere or stashed away safely in your bookcase? For two weeks during the month of March between the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> we encourage all of you who fear the cost of overdue fines to drop off your books, videos, DVDs, or anything else you may have not returned. Wipe your slate clean! We are hoping for a record number of returns.

## GIFT BASKETS

Our fundraising efforts will continue with two gift basket raffles during the months of March and April. Counteract cabin fever with indulgent fantasies of winning one of our generously filled baskets. *Tranquil Delights*: an assortment of soothing body lotion, bubble bath, hand cream, bath salts, bath beads, soap, and other delightful items for relaxing reading and listening. *Chocolate Treasures*: loaded with milk chocolate, cocoa, mint chocolate, chocolate raspberry coffee, and additional materials for your reading and listening pleasure. Tickets are \$1 each, or \$5 for six. We will pull the winning tickets in April. Good luck!

## CREATIVE ARTS CHALLENGE

Join us this April for a Creative Arts Challenge for children of Pre-school age through High School. Children are asked to submit their original poetry, short stories, drawing, painting, or sculpture for display at the Library. We will be holding an Artists Tea on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> between 11:00am and 12:00pm; anyone who has chosen to submit a creative work is encouraged to attend.

## SEED STARTING WORKSHOP

Are you making plans for a garden this year? Have you considered saving money by starting your own seeds instead of buying plants? Diane Chauncey has kindly consented to provide another seed starting workshop for us at Chauncey Farms. Watch for announcements and posters as we approach the month of May. Diane prefers to remain flexible with her schedule as her farming permits. Many have enjoyed her workshop and highly recommend learning under her friendly, expert care.

## A SNEAK PEEK INTO THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Ahoy mateys! We have been alerted that New Hampshire libraries will be welcoming pirates, treasure, and daring adven-

tures on the high seas as we dive into "Treasure Reading," New Hampshire's Summer Reading Program. Gather your mates around you, dig out your spyglass, eye patch, and compass from the bottom of your closet; organize your treasure chest - Summer Reading is coming.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- March 6<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Amnesty Weeks
- March 16<sup>th</sup> Thursday—The Library will close at 5:00 pm to allow time for staff and patrons to attend Town Meeting.
- March 31<sup>st</sup> Friday Preschool Story Time 10:00-11:00 am
- April month-long Creative Arts Challenge
- April 28<sup>th</sup> Friday Preschool Story Time 10:00-11:00 am
- May 6<sup>th</sup> Saturday Artists' Tea 11-12:00pm
- May TBA Seed Starting Workshop with Diane Chauncey
- May 26<sup>th</sup> Friday Preschool Story Time 10:00-11:00 am
- May 29<sup>th</sup> Monday Memorial Day—the Library will be closed.

## TOWN MEETING

We ask all Library supporters to join us at Town Meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm to **vote yes** for Library Expansion. Unfortunately, it is not enough to say you will support this project. You must come to Town Meeting and vote. Many people told us last time, "this is a no brainer; of course this will pass." No matter how tempted you are, you cannot stay at home and read; even if the weather is nasty... you must come. Readers and Library lovers must unite! We need your participation in this purest form of democracy. ❖



## PIERCING IMAGES: THE BODY AS CANVAS

By Janet MacLachlan

This is a dramatic photographic exhibition by Elsa Voelcker of Antrim that opens March 1<sup>st</sup>, 3:30 – 7 p.m. at the Thoreau Art Gallery, in the Student Center at Franklin Pierce College, Rindge.

The material on exhibit in "Piercing Images" is the result of a year of research during which Elsa explored, through the lens of her camera and through interviews, the obvious and underling reasons that individuals subject themselves to body piercing.

Readers may remember the article on this subject by professional photographer Elsa Voelcker that appeared in the September 2005 issue of the *Limrik* accompanied by a photo of a young man who had multiple piercings on his face and ears.

Elsa hopes to ultimately publish a book of the photographs and the experiences connected with meeting and working with her subjects.

The exhibition will be at Franklin Pierce from March 1–14<sup>th</sup>. Gallery hours are 12–2 p.m. and 5–7 p.m. daily, including weekends. ❖

have been added, but the original intent—to share the love and knowledge of fiber and the animals that produce it—has stayed the same.”

Item: In 2000, Anne started a weekly *After School Weaving Session*, at the *Wool Room*, for school children. Since Anne is a spinner, not a weaver, the weaving is taught by Connie Gray.

Item: Anne gives both knitting and spinning lessons by appointment.

It seems remarkable to this writer that amongst Antrim residents there is, per capita, a very large number of people involved in wool fiber-related activities, many more than in any other area town—to wit:

- Lorraine Carey Block raises sheep, spins yarn and dyes it with natural rather than chemical dyes.
- Nancy Benda has angora sheep and goats, and angora rabbits, along with a llama to protect them from coyotes. Both she and her husband are avid knitters.
- Diane Kendall raises sheep, sells fleece, does spinning and knitting.
- Lauren Kirkpatrick on Pleasant St. keeps two sheep.
- Catrina Young at Antrim Center has sheep and goats.
- Ann Bell Desmet hooks rugs with wool yarn and has kits for chair pads.
- Carol Karsten on Mattheson Road has the largest herd of alpacas in N.H.
- Diane Chauncey of Chauncey Farm offers knitting machine demonstrations and has used knitting machines for sale.

Is there a connection between unusually active wool-related activities in Antrim and the work of Anne Hennessy? Lorraine Carey Block puts it this way: “She started so many people knitting. She keeps everybody motivated and is very supportive. She brings us into the fold and keeps in touch with us all. She’s a great asset to the whole fiber community.”

Another article could be devoted to Anne’s non-wool fiber experience. Suffice it here to mention that she spent a significant part of her life working with deaf children. Following graduation from Colby College, she did certificate work at New York City’s Lexington School for the deaf while obtaining an M.A. in education of the deaf at Columbia University. She then taught deaf children in Santa Fe, N.M. for three years, followed by teaching and supervising at Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center from the late ‘50s until 1971.

Lots of people in Antrim make mighty contributions to the community. Certainly Anne is one of them, and none do it in a more interesting way. As they’d say in Italy, “Brava signora!” ❖

## SENIOR GIRL SCOUT TROOP 1367

Sharon Dowling - Troop Leader

It is an oft-repeated statement that time goes faster as we grow older. This certainly seems to be true for local Senior Girl Scouts, who are trying to keep Scouting as a part of their lives, while also trying to fit in all the demands of high school, jobs, other extracurricular activities demanded by the future colleges of their choice, and family commitments! Despite the scheduling challenges, Troop 1367 managed to organize a festive Christmas party in December, complete with movies, homemade goodies, and gifts.

In January, to continue exploring the visual arts, the group headed for Quechee Gorge and Woodstock, Vermont. A visit to the Simon Pearce showroom and glassblowing demonstrations, and then several art galleries and shops in Woodstock, proved to be both educational and inspirational. Several of the girls are serious students of art and design, and the rest of us are definitely art appreciators. It was great to get the responses from the serious students on the styles and techniques we were able to see. It is definitely worth a return trip, in warmer weather, so we can also really enjoy the Gorge! January was also Girl Scout Cookie Month, but if you were not approached by a Girl Scout during the initial order taking period, fear not! There will be cookies for sale in other venues in the community!

February saw the girls working on a Community Service project for the residents of the Antrim Girls Shelter. Over the years this group of Scouts has been able to meet with, learn about, and send treats to the girls staying at the Shelter, and in honor of Valentine’s Day they created chocolate “rosebuds” and lavender sachets to share.

March will see a number of local Scout Troops helping with the Community Supper at the Presbyterian Church on March 16. The plan is to have a cookie booth sale at the supper, which is also the night of the Antrim Town Meeting. So, before the Town Meeting, grab a bite to eat, and a box of cookies for dessert. Profits from the cookies are split among the Council, each troop, and each scout in the form of “cookie credits” which can be applied to the cost of programs, summer camp, and scout related supplies.

As always, your support for Scouts is greatly appreciated. Questions about local troops, programs, and summer camp can be directed to our Service Unit Manager, Jeana White-Beihl at 588-3014. Your daughter does not need to be an active Scout in order to enjoy summer camp—this is the time to enroll if she is interested! ❖

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# NEWS ABOUT TOWN

## ANTRIM GRANGE NEWS

By Renee Mercier

Antrim Community Grange has enjoyed a winter of pleasant 'home meetings' (as the hall is heated by woodstove and too cold until spring!). These meetings included one that took place at Antrim Village so we could continue our annual cookie decorating to support the Annual Tree Lighting. We had a few new faces join us and enjoy this time of socializing and reminiscing. We also had our annual Christmas Party at Beth and Arthur Merrill's, where presents were exchanged, merriment was in the air, Santa paid a visit, and a beautiful group picture was taken outside on a gorgeous night. You can view this picture on our website.

We have also had a lot of business to attend to. At a meeting at the home of Gloria Davis, we discussed our upcoming need for Community Service and Scholarship recipients. We have a pretty good idea of our Service Award recipients. Our scholarship applications were handed out at the ConVal Scholarship Night, so hopefully those will be in by April 1<sup>st</sup>. For information on our scholarship program or an application, log on to our website!

Our annual NH State Grange Dictionary Project has been discussed and is still in the works at this time. This program has supplied all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students from Antrim, Bennington, Greenfield, Peterborough and Dublin schools for the past 4

years. The other schools in the district are covered by our neighboring granges.

At this time, we are planning on holding our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Mini Garden Expo on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Last year, we had many local companies and individuals give demonstrations, sell gardening items and composting materials, organize activities for the kids, and offer plants for sale...of course! We hope to make this a successful yearly event to take away some of those winter blues. It is refreshing to walk into a building during a snowy evening and be met by the colors of beautiful flowers. For info on how to join us either as an exhibitor or a guest, please check out our website or watch your local papers!!

Our annual Art Show for local artists will be held from June 15-18<sup>th</sup>. If you are an artist or are interested in purchasing some beautiful local art, please check our website or watch the local papers for info. There is always a great variety of art based on a given theme for the year. It is like the Museum of Art has relocated in Antrim for a few days!

If you need any info on any of the things that we do and/or how you can join us, please don't hesitate to check out our website at: <http://antrim.nhgrange.org> or as a link on the Antrim website under 'organizations'. Thank you for another great year of support and have a great 2006! ❖

## ANTRIM SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Antrim Scholarship Committee encourages all high school graduates and college students to apply for financial aid from the Jameson, Thompson and Tibbetts scholarship funds. Applications can be picked up at the Town Office and at the Guidance Office at Conval High School after March 1<sup>st</sup>. The application must be hand delivered or post marked by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. High school graduates are especially encouraged to apply, as the majority of the scholarship funds are earmarked for entering college freshmen. Please check the Town website ([www.antrimnh.org](http://www.antrimnh.org)) for further information or feel free to stop at the Town office if you have any questions. ❖

## NEW CHINESE RESTAURANT

By Barbara Reynolds

The Keung Gardens Chinese Restaurant will be opening the week of February 6th in the Antrim Market Plaza next to Back Ali's Pub. The Keung Gardens is owned by Keung Lam. His son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Vivian Lam, will help him run the restaurant. They are originally from Hong Kong, and have lived in New York for several years before moving to New Hampshire. The Keung Gardens will be open for dinner and take-out service seven days a week. We're looking forward to it and wish them all the best.

## LAUNDROMAT

Also opening in Antrim in February will be a new Laundromat between the Antrim Marketplace and Back Ali's Pub. ❖



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## THE MONADNOCK PAPER MILLS

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## A VILLAGE WITHIN A TOWN

By Sam Baker-Salmon  
Conval Sophomore

Antrim, New Hampshire, a little town I have lived in all my life, has a population of about 2,000 people. My house is located on picturesque Clinton Road, lined with trees, stonewalls and foundations of mill buildings. I actually live in old Clinton Village. Originally the village consisted of many houses which were a stone's throw away, but throughout the years the neighborhood has expanded and taken a much larger shape. In Clinton Village there used to be a general store that was neighboring my house, but many years ago the people who ran it sold it to my current neighbors, the Colliers.

My house and most of the surrounding buildings were old mills powered by Great Brook which flows behind my house. Great Brook rumbles like a bull in the spring; in the early fall it is as still as a sleeping cat. The mill building across the brook used to be powered by water too, but now it stores antiques. My house still has little holes in the floor from the belts that powered the equipment in the mill. I think the history of my house gives a nice feel to the story of its life. Later on in its life the house became a creamery, and then my father bought it and made a glass studio. My memories in Clinton Village are many and ongoing.

I have so many fond memories of my house. From the ages of five to eight I played on my swing set constantly. I remember back then I thought my swing set was the "coolest" thing ever. It was passed down by my neighbors who had kids who had grown out of it. Many times I was either swinging away or climbing on the monkey bars. When I was about seven years old I was

making my way across the money bars with my eyes closed when I fell, SMACK, on the ground. I remember thinking, "no big deal I'm fine, it just stung a little." I had gotten a little scrape on my right knee from the fall. From then on I didn't go on the monkey bars with my eyes closed.

The *only* bad things about my house were the wasps. They were deadly. I was playing with my brother Zac, kicking around a ball, when he kicked the ball over to a large wasp nest. Unfortunately I didn't know that, and I stepped right on the nest. Five wasps came charging at me—stinging away with no mercy. I started screaming, ran up to the front door and showed my mom who carelessly gave me some ice. Those wasps got seven stings in me. I had to sit out the ball game for the rest of the day.

My backyard is about twenty feet by forty feet and is a perfect place for snow forts and massive snow fights. Just last year my brother and I invited six friends over and we had the biggest snowball fight ever seen by mankind. The snowballs and chunks of ice were whizzing by left and right. My brother had the idea of splitting up into teams of four and taking one hour to create a snow fort/snowball barrier. After the hour was up we got into our forts and began the fight. That was the most fun I had ever had in my backyard.

When I think about it, I have done a lot in my neighborhood, I've studied classical guitar for nine years from an amazing guitarist, Frank Wallace, who lives up the street, I went to school in my neighborhood for eight years, I have a job landscaping for Richard Winslow up the road from me, and I have many friends in the Clinton Village area. I'm glad I live in this beautiful village in Antrim, New Hampshire. ❖

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# CALENDAR

## MARCH

- 6—18 *Amnesty Weeks* • Tuttle Library (bring back your overdue books—no charge)  
6 GBS Shea/Bundy classes to Planetarium  
7 *Brown Bag Coalition* • 11:30 PM • The Grapevine  
7 *Effective Parenting Training* series begins • 5:30 PM • The Grapevine  
10 GBS 6th Grade Ski day at Crotched Mountain  
13 *Teen Victims of Violence* discussion • 6:30 PM • The Grapevine  
14 ***Election Day*** • 8 AM — 7 PM • Town Hall  
16 *Community Supper* • 5:30 PM • Presbyterian Church  
16 ***Town Meeting*** • 7 PM • Town Gym  
18 GBS Destination Imagination Competition  
29 *2nd Annual Mini Garden Expo* • the Grange  
30 *Health Care* meeting • 3 PM • Town Hall  
31 *Preschool Story Time* • 10 AM • Tuttle Library

## APRIL

- Month-long *Creative Arts Challenge* • Tuttle Library  
4 *Brown Bag Coalition* • 11:30 PM • The Grapevine  
10 *Healthy Habits Start Early* discussion • 6:30 PM • The Grapevine  
18 *Royal Preschoolers* playgroup • 9:30 AM • The Grapevine  
20 *Outdoor Adventure for Young Children* • 9:30 AM • The Grapevine  
20 *Community Supper* • 5:30 PM • Presbyterian Church  
28 *Preschool Story Time* • 10 AM • Tuttle Library  
29 *2nd Annual Grapevine Family Spring Walk* • time & place TBA

## MAY

- 2 *Brown Bag Coalition* • 11:30 PM • The Grapevine  
6 *Artists' Tea* • 11 AM • Tuttle Library  
8 *"Raising Cain"* in celebration of Mother's Day • 6:30 PM • The Grapevine  
18 *Community Supper* • 5:30 PM • Presbyterian Church  
26 *Preschool Story Time* • 10 AM • Tuttle Library

### GBS STUDENTS' WINTER POETRY

#### SKATING

By: Gunnar Mose

Gliding on the ice,  
Figure eights squiggly;  
No speed limit to it,  
Having fun.

#### SKIING

By: Tom Dubois

Falling in snow  
Flying down mountains fast  
Skiing is harder than you know;  
Snow glide.

#### SNOWFLAKES

By: Kaylen Wray

White needle points  
Falling forever  
One of a kind, all of them  
How amazing!

my abutters that don't want me around them. One of my abutters actually approached me after I was required to pay to have Southwestern Regional Planning Commission come in, at the request of the Planning Board, to evaluate my application and apply it to the town's rules and regulations for a "Major Site Plan Review." After hearing the Planning Commission's comments and evaluation and approval of my application for my operation, this one particular abutter told me that he was going to do "whatever it takes to keep me out," just for the mere reason that he doesn't want me across the street from where he lives. So, it's very frustrating, with the delays and now with this petition, considering I can't do anything until after the court date in March, which conveniently comes after this petition comes up for vote at Town Meeting. Another point to make here is how ironic it is that Mr. Alexandar Snow is the named party of the lawsuit against the Town's Planning Board, and now Mr. Snow sits on that same Planning Board that he is suing.

One of the main concerns with this rezoning was why the petitioners, when asked by the Planning Board to sit down and open some type of dialogue, and involve the voters of Antrim, didn't want to incorporate or utilize this process of discussion to make sure ALL affected parties had equal input and the opportunity to voice an opinion. Not one business along Route 9 was ever contacted in any way to get any input or even the chance to comment on this rezoning. This, in my opinion, is strong argument against this petition as to the real reason(s) why this petition is even up for vote. Gracefully removing the town's Planning Board and others whose property would be affected in a VERY negative way, is not proper practice for conservative change. It's basically looking for personal gain by the petitioners just to protect their backyards that happen to be located in a commercially zoned area.

These petitioners claim that they're trying to "preserve the rural character of the town" of that area along with protecting "a substantial variety of wildlife, plants, and wetlands.....". But what they're not telling everyone is that this land is already protected by some of the most strict wetland laws and regulations in the country. And although we've all seen where money can buy those regulations and the people that regulate them, endless economic resources are usually only behind the corporate chains and development companies that can afford to dump endless amounts of money into these permits and never-ending public meetings because they can justify it through pure profit and gain by building something that will draw a steady

flow of people that can dump most of their wallets into it on a regular basis. I would question that opportunity exists right now for this type of business along this small 3-mile stretch of road in Antrim.

If this area were to be rezoned to *Rural Conservation*, it would allow less protection than it presently has now. Why? Because most residencies don't require the magnifying glass process that commercial activity has to go under. By rezoning this into *Rural Conservation*, one of the main types of development that is allowed is residencies which means more septic systems, more fragmented parcels of land to support the maximum amount of subdivisions and dwellings, more costs to the town for needs required by this area sprawled up with this type of development. In my opinion, the petitioners aren't looking at this from a realistic standpoint. Besides, are there more people out there that really want to live on a major throughway that supports over 10,000 vehicles a day? Where you have an infrastructure that can support this type of business district, along with an area that will produce income to the town and help increase the tax base and reduce property taxes, then why not allow it to happen?

Antrim voters need to be aware that there are presently businesses that are considering coming into this area. I think this is the main thrust behind this petition and the people that support it. Along with my forest products operation, there are presently individuals that have purchased land for commercial use. There is office space that is additionally being considered too. So businesses are trying to come in, but the people that support this petition certainly aren't welcoming them. If the petitioners are so adamant on protecting the land, then the one solution that would work for everyone is for them to purchase all this land, and then they can protect it however way they choose. But to try and take away someone else's property rights in order to benefit themselves is far from the best interest of Antrim and the voters that support it. Antrim voters do the right thing. Let our business help out with the economy and offer products and services for the community so that we really can protect the character of what's left in New Hampshire. We can be an example of how good conservative growth and community support can exist with the New Hampshire way of life.

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NH Certified Wetland Scientist #210  
80 Murdough Hill Rd.  
Nelson, NH. 03457




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**Ericka J. Leonard**  
Commercial Lender / Market Manager

Cardigain Corridor which has been the focus of unprecedented interstate collaboration among the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) and 20 partners, including the Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, and the Monadnock Conservancy.

In 1992 this stretch of Rte. 9 was included in the New Hampshire Scenic Byway Network to promote tourism and preserve resources. The western portion of Antrim was given the highest priority for conservation by the Antrim Open Space Committee.

Preservation efforts have been ongoing and extensive tracts are already preserved in perpetuity. Recreational opportunities abound. Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd, The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and The Nature Conservancy, owners of hundreds of acres north and south of Route 9, allow the public to cross country ski, snowshoe, hike, snowmobile, run dog sleds, or just enjoy nature on their lands. The Keene High School cross country ski team practices on Meadowsend trails off Salmon Brook Road. The state stocks the river with trout, kayakers challenge the river's class IV and V rapids. Hunters frequent the forests. Moose, deer, bear, and countless smaller animals and large numbers of migratory birds rely on the wetlands and forests for food and shelter. Old homesteads and the original Loveren Mill recall Antrim's beginnings. It is a valued area for all those who enjoy the outdoors.

Clearly there has been little interest to date in commercially developing the land, and the region has primarily evolved into a residential community with only three commercial establishments. Yet there is always a risk that commercial development could take hold at any time.

Rezoning opponents argue that the loss of commercial land would be a blow to Antrim's tax base. In fact, less than 10% of the total three-mile frontage is vacant land that could be developed commercially. The remainder is already wetlands or developed for homes and businesses, protected by conservation easements, or owned by the state.

A 1999 study by the Trust for Public Lands said, "In the long term, contrary to the common perception that development will bring lower taxes, property tax rates are generally higher in more developed towns than in more rural towns." People tend to think that commercial development always reduces a town's tax burden. But commercial development is a double-edged sword. It doesn't require as many services from the town, yet it attracts more people to fill jobs and build houses, which exerts still more pressure on town services.

A great deal has to be done to improve the town's zoning. We must act to protect the areas worthy of protection and encourage smart growth in the areas worthy of commercial development.

Many residents have signed their names to the petition to save the western most stretch of Rte. 9. We ask that others add their support. Please vote yes for rezoning. ❖

## **ANTRIM COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM**

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# ANTRIM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL MUSINGS

By Debbie Lesure, Principal

Out of the mouths of babes...this is an expression that I love. One of my great pleasures is listening to our young students and understanding how they think. Kids are frank and open. Most of the time they tell us exactly what they believe. Yet, I've been worried about much of what I am hearing. I'm troubled by the influence of the media. Television and electronic games affect our students in ways we've never considered. As a parent myself, I know kids are drawn into computer and video games, movies, and TV shows. This is a huge part of our culture.

As parents and educators, we must realize that, all too often, the impact is negative. Our children are simply too young to make decisions about the quality and message given through the media. Adults must do that for them. We need to parent, educate, counsel and place limits on what our children see and play. Let me provide a few examples of the daily influence the producers and game-makers have likely never considered.

*"I don't need a jacket outside. I won't get cold. Besides, no one on TV ever wears jackets!"* – a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader.

Just where do Dora the Explorer and Sponge Bob Square Pants live? How many movies put their characters outside in New Hampshire in the wintertime? I suspect that Lindsay Lohan and Jessica Simpson would wear a jacket here. David Ortiz doesn't need one during a Red Sox game in the summer, but I'll bet this man from the Dominican Republic wears one in Boston during the winter months!

*"I can't even think today. I'm too tired. I stayed up late watching Terminator and then I had nightmares."* – a 1<sup>st</sup> grader in tears.

This child was so tired he could barely hold his head up. No learning happened for this little boy in school on this day. Imagine being a young child in fear of attack and seeing a big, scary robot dissolve into a molten pool. Then the robot comes back again and again and again...Simply telling a child it isn't real and it's only a movie, doesn't take away the fear. They see it – it's real.

*"Don't worry, Mrs. Lesure. My video game isn't as violent as most. I only have to kill once in awhile."* – a 4<sup>th</sup> grader.

*"My favorite Christmas present is my new video game. It's called Murder."* – a 1<sup>st</sup> grader

Let's think about these. Kill once in awhile? A game called Murder? Yes, only games, but are children being conditioned to think that killing is okay? Violence grabs our attention. Children cannot truly understand the difference between life in the media, often portrayed so realistically, and reality. Their executive brain functions have not yet developed to this level.

*"Just 'cause I tackled him (playing football), he punched me."* – one of two 4<sup>th</sup> graders sent in from the playground.

In conversation with these boys, I asked why they play football. They said it was a game and it was fun. I asked if they got paid to play the game. The smile that spread over their faces was precious. The students don't get paid; they play for fun. Oh, fun...Modeling the actions of the professionals they watch on television was taking the fun out of the game. Now that they play, they can enjoy the game!

Please understand, I am not asking we turn off the TV or take away electronic games. What I am suggesting is that we, as parents and educators, think about the unintended consequences of media messages. What are our children learning from these? I'll put on my jacket, boots, hat and mittens for this cold New Hampshire weather. Then, I'll go outside for recess. I'll keep listening to what our children say and understand – out of the mouths of babes.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS CRITICAL FOR STUDENT LEARNING!

My mom was a working mom, long before most mothers ventured out daily into the workplace. She dreaded school workshop days. Who would be home with my siblings and me? "Why do teachers need workshop days anyway?" she would ask. "Ah...they are critical to our success!" I could tell her now.

In our district, all teachers had a workshop day on Friday, January 27. Specific grade-level teachers were also out on different days during the second week of January and will be out again in February and March. These days are dedicated to learning about the newest research and understandings on how children learn best. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, AES staff focused on the book, *Research-Based Methods of Reading Instruction*. This book reviews research on five critical aspects of learning to read, as identified by the National Reading Panel – phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension and vocabulary. Together, we reviewed current research, read about new teaching methods and strategies, learned about websites that provide activities for children, and found technology resources for us. This book follows up a presentation that we had in October to learn effective methods for implementing a Guided Reading approach. At AES, our staff has new copies of the *Guided Reading* books for grades K-3, as well as for grades 3-6.

In early January, teachers in grades K through 4 attended grade-level presentations on reading comprehension. One special advantage for teachers was the opportunity to work with all other district teachers at the same grade level. This really helps us to further our own understandings of the learning process and grade-level expectations. We have new books, including *Strategies That Work* and *Mosaic of Thought*, which expand our understanding of teaching reading comprehension. There will be additional follow-up for this presentation in the spring. Middle and high school teachers will have a similar training.

However, our district isn't focused just on reading instruction. Social Studies trainings for our new curriculum will happen in February and March for teachers in grades K through 8. Although each grade level has its own themes and curricular expectations, we will be learning about a new method for developing effective units. Our teachers and I will begin to learn through a special presentation, and then further our learning with the text *Understanding by Design*. The authors of this book emphasize a focus on essential questions and enduring understandings.

Does it seem like a lot? Yes, it does. So much is new...so much to learn...so much new to incorporate. We need the trainings, the time, the workshop days. It's critical to our success as educators. Even more importantly, as we strive to perfect our craft, our students learn. That, ultimately, is our focus!



horseman may be caught up in a dangerous “flight” situation.

A horse’s eyes are located on the side of its head, allowing it to spot potential “predators” from a distance, both front and behind. This can be a liability as easily as it can be an asset to horse and rider. The slightest movement behind a horse can gain its attention and cause it alarm. Approaching drivers should be aware that any number of situations could arise suddenly, causing a seemingly normal, quiet horse to become a danger to itself, the rider and the motor operator.

Horses are said to be colorblind and can have difficulty distinguishing a rock or tree stump from a black bear (lying in wait for the tastiest looking horse to pass by). Barking dogs, especially the untied variety, can cause havoc, from the noise they create, their threatening postures and their pursuit of the “intruder”, often endangering themselves by coming into the roadway. A plastic shopping bag blowing noisily across the road is certainly one of the most dangerous and unexpected things that can happen to a horse and rider. Windy days can be especially challenging to horse handlers everywhere, because it usually means the air is crisp, which brings up the energy in most horses, not to mention all the things that move and rustle and spin and just cause horse terror in general.

The horse does give a warning sign when it becomes concerned for its safety. Drivers should be wary of passing any horse that has its head raised in a high position, with the ears pointed forward in an alert posture. This is an indication that the horse may suddenly decide to turn, swerve, or veer sharply away from the object of its attention, even if that path is directly in front of an approaching vehicle. Following the direction of a horse’s ears can point humans to the source of a potential hazard and help us to judge the amount of imminent risk.

Similarly, a vehicle approaching from behind should be wary of a horse whose head carriage is quite high, but the ears are pointed backward, and often times with the head tipped toward the point of concern. This behavior indicates the horse’s likelihood of running forward, away from whatever stimulus behind him is causing its fear.

Should an accident occur, the danger to motor vehicle operators is as great as that to the horse and rider. No one wants to live with the image of a body, human or animal, crashing down onto the hood or windshield of the car he/she was driving, even assuming that the driver survived the accident without injury.

As stated in section 265:104 of the NH Statutes, “Every person having control or charge of a vehicle shall, whenever upon any way and approaching any horse, drive, manage, and con-

trol such vehicle in such a manner as to exercise every reasonable precaution to prevent the frightening of such horse, and to insure the safety and protection of any person riding or driving the same.” That is the law. Therefore, the best line of approach to any horse on roads and highways is to slow down. When a vehicle is approaching too fast, and the operator brakes strongly, the feeling of urgency the horse senses is equally as frightening as the sounds and gravel spray that may occur. Faithfully observing and obeying speed limits, and decreasing speed when encountering horses, allows the operator time to observe any of the behaviors mentioned above, to assess the situation, and to pass at a respectable and responsible distance and speed. Courteous equestrians will motion to motorists when it is safe to pass—if allowed the time and space to deem the situation as such. ❖

## FOR THE RECORD

- Dotti and David Penny have been named 2005 Citizen of the Year by the Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce. They lived in Antrim for 25 years prior to moving to Hillsborough and have contributed remarkably to each of those communities. They also both volunteered with the Red Cross to help out with disaster relief in Louisiana following the Katrina Hurricane.

- Summer Street is now open for traffic after what seemed an eternity, especially for Summer Street and Highland Ave. residents. What was it actually – two years?

- This year’s printed Town Report is being dedicated to the late, badly-missed, Isabel B. “Izi” Nichols. A tribute to her for the Report is being written by Lyman Gilmore. ❖

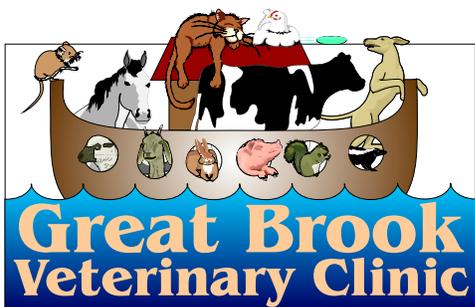
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# GREAT BROOK SCHOOL NEWS

By GBS Students and Staff

## NEW FACES AT GBS

GBS welcomed two new faculty members this month. Senora Downes is substitute teaching for Senora Goodman, our Spanish teacher, who took a leave of absence to travel to Ghana, Africa. Senora Downes will remain with us until Senora Goodman returns in May. Senora Downs is new to GBS, but not new to the ConVal district, however. Ms. Downes served as the Temple representative on the ConVal School Board from 1992-1995. She also directed the Before & After Program in Temple and served as a long-term substitute teacher at TES as well. Our students are fortunate to have her in our school and we are happy she is with us!

Ms. Kidd came to GBS in early January to work with some of our students with special needs on our fifth grade team. Ms. Kidd is a recent graduate of Antioch New England College. She worked as a substitute teacher and an intern in Greenfield Elementary School and Antrim Elementary School, respectively. She received many accolades from each of her previous supervisors and colleagues. We are thrilled to have her among our faculty.

## GRADE 8 NEWS

Our eighth graders have completed half of their last year at Great Brook. It doesn't seem possible! I'm sure that their parents are feeling the same.

The eighth grade curriculum is rich in challenging topics. Currently, in Social Studies, we are learning about the Civil War - its causes and effects. Did you know that more men were lost in the 3-day Battle of Gettysburg than were lost in 12 years of fighting in Vietnam? Did you know that General Burnside had facial hair named after him? Did you know that the Civil War was not started because of slavery? In math, the Algebra students are working hard on completing the high school algebra requirements. In our other math classes, we are learning about the slope and y-intercept, exponential growth and decay and graphing calculators. In addition, we continue to practice basic skills. In Science, students are working with brine shrimp, designing their own experiments and learning about the periodic table. Students are also exposed to good young adult literature in our reading classes. Expanding vocabulary skills as well as higher level thinking skills are practiced and students also work on projects related to their reading experiences. Of course, they continue to enjoy their "specials" and PE!

As we look to the immediate future, we are planning for the guidance counselors from Conval to visit and help us understand the scheduling process for 9th grade. This is an exciting and stressful time for all of us as the reality of high school hits home. We encourage parents to talk with their students about their high school goals to better prepare them to make good choices for classes.

And, finally, with great excitement, we are anticipating our spring trip to Washington, DC. The students are already talking about roommates and who will sit with whom on the bus. Through our social studies classes, we will begin discussing what we will see and its importance both to our social studies curriculum and to us as Americans.

## GBS SCHOOL MEETING

Our January school meeting was devoted to celebrating our successes for the first half of this school year. Students from each grade level made several presentations, demonstrating particular lessons learned over the first trimester. Members

from our Parent Advisory recognized students who achieved high honor / honor roll status during the first marking term. Among the 326 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders attending GBS, 186 achieved high honor/honor roll status this marking term. We congratulate our students and thank parents for their support as well!

## GBS PRIME TIME

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, fifth grade students enjoyed an evening of reading, recreational activities, and exploring the night sky at GBS. Presenters from the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium wowed students with a demonstration of colors produced by burning various and building a simulated comet.

## IMPROV IS BACK!

Improvisation is a form of theater where you act out a scene with little or no practice. The students in Improv are working on building their skills through different exercises that focus on characterization, thinking on their feet, vocalization and scene building.

The group is small with a limit of 12 students so that everyone feels comfortable, be willing to take risks and have fun! It is open to grades 6-8 and will meet weekly from September thru November and March thru May. If there is no school, there is no class. If class needs to be canceled, it will be announced ASAP.

We will all take turns providing snacks and drinks to share before class begins. If you have any questions, feel free to call Ms. Becky Paquette at GBS 588-6630 ext 6104 and leave a voice-mail or e-mail me, [rpaquette@conval.edu](mailto:rpaquette@conval.edu) and I will return your message ASAP!

## SHELTER BUILDING IN MCCABE FOREST

By Linda Bundy

At one time or another, how many of us have thought about leaving our busy lives behind and going off into some backwoods spot to live one day at a time, close to Nature? The fifth graders in Mrs. Shea's and Ms. Bundy's classes have read *My Side of the Mountain*, a novel by Jean Craighead George, in which a boy named Sam Gribble takes off on that very adventure.

While Sam went to his family's land in the Catskill Mountains, our fifth graders walked to McCabe Forest in Antrim on November 8<sup>th</sup> to spend the morning building debris shelters. The shelters developed in a variety of forms. Many used a leaning tree as support for dead limbs, followed by a covering of leaves and pine needles. One shelter was constructed in a circular fashion around a tall, straight tree and was surprisingly large. Each group had a length of twine, which they used to make a tool. Among the ingenious creations were a fishing pole, a torch, a food smoking rack, a spear, bows and arrows, and a working snare.

Both the trip to McCabe and reading *My Side of the Mountain* provide multiple opportunities for learning about ecosystems, one of the main units of study in the fifth grade science curriculum. Students gain understanding of the interactions of living things with each other and the environment. They were on the look out for examples of organisms that are producers, consumers, and decomposers in the forest. During and after the building process, they took time to sketch and write in journals about their observations and experiences. Before leaving,

 continued on next page

the shelters were dismantled and the materials scattered about so the forest showed little effects of our having been there, and students returned to school with increased appreciation and understanding of our natural world.

### WEST AFRICAN PEN PALS

By Jessica Notemyer

Carol Ripley's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class has chosen to become pen pals with eleven students in the Volta region of Ghana, West Africa. As Senora G. embarks on her "wave of absence," we are establishing communication and an exchange of cultures between Nicwatia - Kwahu, a village of 2,000 people and the local G.B.S towns. Photos will be sent with each letter. We hope to build up a liaison between continents to share and learn about different cultures. Sixth grade Spanish students are learning the Spanish alphabet and how Spanish holidays are celebrated in these countries. We will create an alphabet book depicting the winter holidays in Spanish.

### BREAD MAKING IN 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

By Abby Gamble

This year, Ms. Thomas' 7<sup>th</sup> grade students have been learning about yeast and how it makes bread rise and the metric system through hands-on activities, such as making cookies and bread.

Before getting hands on with actually making the bread, the classes first observed yeast under a microscope. Learning that yeast was a live organism, students saw a bubbly-like object under the microscope.

The first core class made the dough during their one-hour period class time. The next class kneaded the dough for 5-10 minutes until it was soft and put it in a bowl for baking.

GBS built an old fashion oven outside covered by a wooden hut. How this oven works is: first you put wood and coals inside its clay interior and then start a fire. The fire heats up the base and the rest of the interior of the oven so that it will be hot enough to bake the bread. After about half an hour or so, the oven is hot enough to put the bread in. You scrape all of the hot wood and coals out of the oven into a bucket, but the interior of the oven still stays hot. While the bread is baking, smoke and the smell of bread streams upward and out of the little hole in the hut. The bread is done when it sounds hollow when you tap on the top of it.

The next day the science cores made butter to spread on their homemade bread. This was done by putting heavy whipping cream into a jar. The students shook the jar until the cream turned into hard butter. Once again the best part was eating the homemade bread with homemade butter.

### MOCK TRIAL

By Hillary Lyon

Mock Trial is a competition between two different schools who are competing to show who's better at proving someone guilty or turning out to be innocent. The Mock Trial team at G.B.S has won the state championship for 2 years in a row now and this year we are planning to win again!

### NHDI

By Abby Gamble

New Hampshire Dance Institute or NHDI will be celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this May with its new show *Jai Danse* which

means, "I Dance." Each year nearly 200 students from different schools participate in a show completely written and directed by choreographer, Wendy Dwyer.

Act One of *Jai Danse* starts with every student involved leaping over a lit up star in the center of the stage while the audience claps and the orchestra plays. When the leaps are all done, the first school begins their own dance, where that school is the only school on the stage. The rest of the schools continue on after, each performing their own act one dance. The finale wraps up the first act with all 200 kids on stage performing the same dance.

Act two tells a story through various dances. Each school again does their own dance, but one dance is connected to the next in the way that they are telling a story. Adding to the effect of the story, the dancers wear costumes that go with their dance. At the end Wendy Dwyer comes out, flowers in arms, and everyone points to the orchestra and singers in thanks.

Most kids are involved in NHDI year after year because, "It's fun. It helps you to become more awake in the mornings and it's really good exercise. Wendy is really nice," says three-year dancer Carly Roland. Kids also like the performance best of all. "The performance is really fun and you get to be with your friends. You're nervous at first, especially if it's your first year, but then it's thrilling and you get really into it and its fun. It's great to hear the audience clapping at the end and the orchestra and singers are really loud so it gets you pumped. The only really nerve racking part of it is when you're waiting to do your leap. You're worried that you're going to mess up or fall on your face, but once the leaps are over, it is fun."

### WANTED: PIANO

Bonnie Achterhof needs a piano for the AES. She has taken Izi Nichols' place and plays for the NHDI when they practice. Anyone who would like to donate a piano in good condition, please call Bonnie at 588-6832. ❖

### GBS STUDENTS' WINTER POETRY

#### SNOWFLAKES

By: Samantha Fox

I see snowflakes fly through the sky.  
They loopy-loop through the chilly breeze.  
I feel that I'm getting buried by the snow off my roof.

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about history, especially U.S. history, from Izi as we did in the regular school curriculum. Then there was dancing. She taught us all manner of dances from not only our own country, but other countries as well. We learned how to square dance, line dance, call dance, ballroom dance and many others. We did all of this to the magic of Izi's piano playing. Nobody played the piano like Izi. During the rest of the week while we were waiting for Mrs. Nichols we would practice a few times with our classroom teachers plunking out notes on the piano. Then Izi would come, and it would be like having a complete orchestra accompanying us. From those early days of hearing her play the piano, I wanted to be able to do it, too. And I wanted her to teach me.

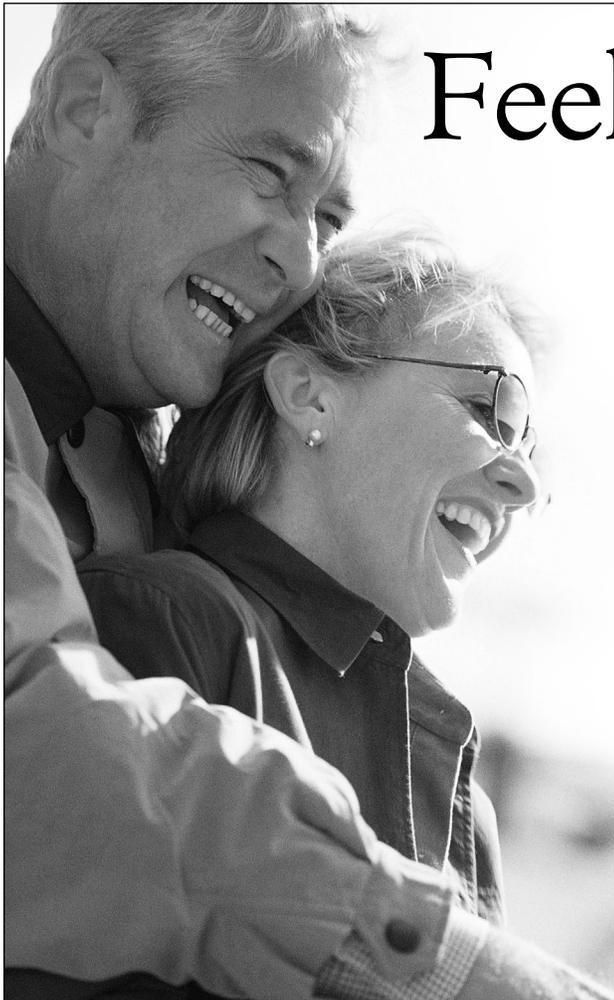
Taking piano lessons from Izi would have to wait because she stopped teaching privately for a while, and for a few years seemed to teach only sporadically in school. During those times when she wasn't in school we really missed music. Our classroom teachers tried, but they just didn't have the skills, and even if they did it would not have been at Izi's level. She was still, apparently, involved in music with the community because it was during this time that I first remember going to her house. Barry Proctor was having one of his Show-A-Thon's, and Izi was accompanying any singers who were participating. I don't remember exactly how old I was, but I remember rehearsing with her in her music room. This experience is particularly memorable to me because when the night of the performance came I turned right around to Izi, who was launching into a second verse, and

said "I don't know any more!" The audience politely applauded for the poor, embarrassed kid, but Izi and I had many a laugh about that night during the intervening years since then.

Antrim was only one of the towns where Izi taught. She covered the whole area in this neck of the woods. Other towns that she went to on at least a weekly basis included Hillsboro, Deering, Stoddard, Washington, Hancock, Bennington, and just before she retired from teaching, ConVal. I remember her telling me that during the Christmas season when she would be doing all manner of pageants, musicals and various Christmas programs, she had a hard time keeping straight where she was supposed to be on any given night. "The phone would ring and some mother would ask, 'what is Suzie supposed to wear tonight?' and I'd have to think, what day is it? Oh, yes Tuesday, so it's Washington's show tonight—and I'd tell the mother to dress her little darling in a red dress or whatever." "...and don't forget to remind Suzie to bring a flashlight with a colored gel for the living Christmas Tree!"

By the time we got to junior high school Izi was helping some of us start little combos. Although we did not yet have a formal band (that was soon to come, though), she would arrange little pieces for some of us to play, for example, to accompany the chorus. I remember playing the piano with Philip Cottle on the drums while the chorus sang "Travelin' On The Western Trail". This all took place in the old Antrim High School known now as The School House Apartments where Izi, herself, had gone to school. In fact it was the last year that building was used before we went to the "new" high school (now Antrim Elementary).

 continued on next page



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I have such vivid memories of the fall of that last year in the “main room” on the second floor of that old structure. I can still see Izi sitting at the piano accompanying us as we sang a chart-topper of the time, “Moon River”. This image is particularly powerful as she was very pregnant with her son, Bill at the beginning of that school year. She would later joke that she had to play on the extremities of the piano—that she could barely reach middle C for her *zaftig* state. During this time Izi taught us a song entitled “Fair Cuba.” We all loved to sing this tune, which was made especially rousing and rhythmic by Izi’s great Latin flourishes at the keys. Then came the Cuban missile crisis! Izi was very patriotic (born, ya know, on the Fourth of July) and determined that it would no longer be appropriate to pay homage to “Fair Cuba.” We whined and complained greatly until she acquiesced with the caveat that we change “Fair Cuba” to “Fair Antrim.” This, of course, presented other problems regarding the lyric, which now contained various cultural and geographic inaccuracies. Antrim didn’t seem to have any palm trees swaying so Izi turned the music lesson into a writing lesson, and as a class we re-wrote the song substituting the inaccurate and/or offending lyric for ones of our own liking. Palm trees, for example, became pine trees. We didn’t care about the lyrics anyway—the fun was in the Latin music itself.

In June of 1962 the bell in the tower of the old high school rang for the last time. Everyone stood on the lawn on that last day of school before summer vacation not seeming to want to leave. Some were crying with mixed emotions—sad about leaving the old, but excited about the new. I’m sure that this time was particularly bitter/sweet for Izi. It was, after all, the only school in Antrim she had ever known. However, in the new school she would be able to expand the music program and actually have a band.

The “new” Antrim High School was only fated to last eight years before the town opted to dissolve its own high school and become part of what was to be Contoocook Valley Regional High School, but Izi sure made the most of those few years. It was during this short period of time that she kicked the music program into high gear. Of course she had long been a musical force in the schools and community dating back to the early fifties, but I believe these few years afforded her opportunities she had not earlier been able to realize. She did all of this at a time when music was considered merely an extra-curricular activity. Music classes, at least in small high schools like Antrim, were not a daily scheduled part of the curriculum like they are in most schools today, but Izi made it work however infrequently

classes had to meet. In addition to band and chorus she even was able to teach a music theory class, the kind of course only being offered in much larger schools.

There were very few students at that time who played an instrument that could be utilized in a marching band, but Izi built a very respectable little band that even played for Memorial Day Parades, not only in Antrim, but in some of the surrounding communities as well. Again, like so much this woman did, she just made it happen. Some kids were able to pick an instrument and take private lessons in Peterborough or somewhere, but Izi would teach all of those others who were not as fortunate. So in addition to teaching piano and voice—her primary area of expertise—she took on teaching various band instruments as well. She did it all effortlessly and with great humor. I remember her telling me about one boy coming to her house for his trumpet lesson *sans* trumpet. When she queried him as to its whereabouts he informed her that he had decided not to bring it that day. Those who know what Izi’s temperament was like can just imagine how that went over. “Everything I say to that boy just goes in one head and out the other”, she would say.

Izi was able to get a fairly well-rounded complement of instruments making up a decent little marching band replete with majorettes. One summer she took some course in teaching marching band, and the following fall we were all out in the ball field practicing pin-wheels and other assorted marching band maneuvers. Although Antrim High School did not have a football team, she apparently felt we should at least know what the experience would be like if we were to play at a football game. Izi recruited kids to be in the band from the whole school in whatever way she could, regardless of their background or ability. I was a rather sturdy kid, so she conscripted me to play the sousaphone insisting that I was the only one who could carry it. Never mind that I had never even held this instrument in my life; if the notes in a given arrangement were too difficult for the playing level of a given part, she would simply re-write the part to accommodate the player’s lack of skill. The final product never seemed any the worse for the watering down.

In addition to remembering Izi in connection with the countless musical/theatrical experiences she provided for all of us in school, I have many memories of her performing in the community as well. Some of the more memorable for me include seeing her on stage in Antrim Players productions, playing and singing in various town talent shows, and occasionally singing a solo in church. When Izi took the stage, regardless of the role she might have been portraying (“There are no small parts, only small actors.”) she *took* the stage! Just as when she entered a

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## WHO WILL REMEMBER MARTHA BROWN?

By Peter Moore

Who will remember that old Martha Brown?

Daily seen barreling down Route 31 past my house,  
on her way into “down town.”

Hell-bent, and content I’d see her go, go...

Her big dog “Buddy” set up in back,  
always in tow!

Down to get provisions for that evening’s porch dinner,  
Pork chops, mashed potato, apple sauce, of course dessert,  
ah...what could be finer!

And those welcome cottages, in route to who-knows-where,  
Plus good home cooking, and local-unique gifts,  
for all who stopped there.

She was some lady that Martha Brown, tough, as might a fine woman be.  
And I’ll always remember with great fondness,  
how friendly she was with me.

Though now she has passed on, why it hasn’t been long,  
She’ll cross my mind from time-to-time,  
just like some fond, sweet song.

So, while that bend-in-the-river and Pine Haven will never quite be the same,  
the beautiful character she was, how she cooked, and what she gave to Antrim,  
will be her true lasting fame.

Who will remember that old Martha Brown...?

Those of us lucky enough to have known her,  
and those not, their loss...

The late Martha Brown for many years ran the Pine Haven Cabins and Dining Room at the juncture of Routes 9 and 31. She was active in the Historical Society, the Garden Club, and was President of the Woman’s Club.

the beginning mine was usually some obscure location. Now that I am not so shy, I don’t mind the front row. Salutations and refreshments pass around, and the meeting begins.

Rich! Rich in personalities, opinions, ideas, qualities, characters, humors and wit are how I find these meetings. They are a personification of OUR TOWN. They are a verbal documentation of the past and the present. They are an educated prediction, and it’s anybody’s guess what the future months will bring. Round robin style, we go around the group, each speaking of what we think to contribute. It was actually several years before I opened my mouth at one of these meetings. Dutifully I would do the jobs—small as they were—assigned to me. Once or twice in the beginning Dick Winslow, our recently retired editor, asked me if I would interview a new church minister or someone just opening a business. I didn’t say no, I gave it my best, and I guess it wasn’t too bad since he did use my articles.

My husband is a joiner; he has a strong social conscience. He is very civic minded, and that is how I came to be on the staff of The Limrik. My recollection is that he was approached to join, but his plate being very full at the time, he thought to send me in his place. Since the first meeting I attended, staff members have come and gone, just as when the Limrik was first originated.

A very good teacher friend of mine, impressed by all the wonderful talent she found in Antrim, posed this question to me. She was speaking of Izy Nichols, one of the Limrik’s regular writers, after her performance of one of Mrs. Molnars fourth grade plays, “When she is gone who will carry on in her place.” Now Izy is gone from the Limrik.

College and professional sports teams employ recruiters to regain lost members or to revive an organization. With Limrik members ill and Izy gone, in our last meeting we also spoke of the need to recruit. It occurs to me that all organizations might be just as fragile as we think the Limrik is, since an interest in participating seems to be key.

I don’t know about you, but I truly look forward to receiving my publication of the Limrik in March, June, September, and December.

— Schatze Moore

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

By Brian Beihl

A year after restarting, the Antrim Chamber of Commerce now has over 50 members and is moving forward on its mission to “promote economic growth of local business and support activities for the betterment of our community.” Included this year will be a welcome basket program for new residents of the community, completion of the map and directory project, and participation in the Antrim Home & Harvest. The Antrim Business Expo is also being considered again for November 2006. The March meeting will be concerned with adoption of bylaws for the ACC, plus annual elections. Details of the ACC’s ongoing activities and membership information can be found at [www.AntrimCC.com](http://www.AntrimCC.com), or by calling Brian Beihl at 588-8300. ❖

## A FRAGILE THREAD

I am a member of a group that meets four times a year. I have been with this group since 1995, and it has been in existence since 1991, now with only two of the original members still participating. On occasion one of us has mentioned that we survive by a fragile thread, and we noted this at our January meeting when two members were absent due to illness and injury, and another having passed away. Thinking of this has reminded me of the time when I thought to resign my post, and why I couldn’t.

The quarterly staff meetings of The Antrim Limrik are like no other meeting I have ever attended. Now-days we meet at Carole and Pat Webber’s house, usually on a Friday afternoon at four o’clock. Folks kind of amble in and find a seat. In

**A Brother's Memory**

ing a floor burn. She favored her hip and elbow for the rest of the game.

We stayed to watch the boys play, and then we headed for the farm. It was an unfamiliar walk, my first at night. Izi pointed out that with the streetlights standing where clusters of driveways fed into the road, we were just walking from one pool of light to another. Except for the "flat" where no one lived we were hardly ever in darkness. It was a friendly walk after all. A memorable walk.

As soon as we were home Izi pulled a kitchen chair to the stove, opened the oven door, and with her feet in the oven, leaned back to read. I went to the cellar for some Baldwins and sat on the floor to eat one next to Lady, our Collie. Lady, who would be struck by a car the day Izi graduated Antrim High. ❖

**A Childhood Memory**

no house only a cellar hole but it did have apple trees and, most importantly, a brook! Water came from the Lily Pond to the west towards Holt Hill and north of where Ben Pratt now lives. From our property it flowed across the road (Route 31) into a small pond created for use in case of fire, then through the field and down between Billy Congreve's house and the Butterfield's. My friends and I, mainly Center School students, spent an inordinate amount of time creating dams, ponds, etc on our property and fishing or otherwise exploring up and down the brook. Alas our thoughts strayed far too often from the brook to Izi's ice cream. You see, the ice cream came in many varieties, not just the standard vanilla, chocolate and strawberry. Especially unusual to us was a green variety - pistachio. Indeed it is the vision of green ice cream that remains most vivid in my mind.

We all adored Izi and her ice cream. Thank you Izi for such a cherished memory from childhood! Now these many years later we are fully aware how, after being out of town for a few years, she returned to town to devote her remaining years so successfully to the enrichment of the lives of others in her environment in many different ways. ❖

**HALT!**

**HORSEMANSHIP ADVENTURES THROUGH LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING**

HALT!, a new and unique program underway at Rainy Day Farm on West Street, is now accepting students interested in learning basic natural horsemanship techniques. Owner Beth Merrill offers instruction in understanding and building relationships with horses by utilizing the equine language, ultimately to build lifetime communications skills with horses and people. Students will develop a level of trust and respect that offers them and the horse a mutually enjoyable interaction. This begins with many hours of groundwork before the riding level is achieved. When the student is ready for riding, it will be in a very safe environment, because the preliminary groundwork has established a bond in which the horse recognizes the human as its leader and respects him/her as such. The program is heavily geared toward following the idea of The Seven Games of Horsemanship as presented by world-renowned horsemen Pat and Linda Parelli. For more information about Parelli Natural Horsemanship, Rainy Day Farm horses, instructor and interpreter Beth Merrill and HALT!, go to <http://beth.iprx.com> or call 588-6615. ❖

**Izz and Auntie Barb**

ily stories. Sometimes we wandered down the almost invisible road that runs over the hill toward North Branch.

In our heads we watched the barefoot children of a long century tumbling out the doors of various houses where many cellar holes could be seen. We listened for the stage pulling up the hill from East Antrim. We transformed ourselves into inhabitants of Antrim's 1700s and 1800s. We felt right at home on that place of early settlement.

Izz was a very spiritual person, intuitive and respectful of the mighty power that watches over us.

Late in October, 2005, Izz planned a trip up Meeting House Hill. I thought it was unlike Izz to plan such an outing for so late in the year. However, I agreed happily. We were rained out twice, but Izz kept on planning. She was determined to see that "Auntie Barb" would see Meeting House Hill one more time.

Finally, on November 5 the weather gave us its blessing. Martin, Charles Butterfield, Izz, and I found ourselves on the hill. A gentle breeze visited and a cloudless sky smiled down on us. A perfect day in every way.

Izz was 82 and I was 88. Time to think of whatever we wish to do "one more time." I was appreciative of Izz for doing such a thoughtful thing for me. Then came November 19!!!

I have to wonder. To whom was Izz giving "one more time?"



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**LOGOS** program for Middle School students meets every Wednesday at 3:45 PM

**AA Meetings** on Sundays at 7:00 PM

**Spectrum Art Association** meets Thursday mornings 9:00 AM – 12 NOON

**Antrim Reading Group** meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 7 PM

**Ballroom Dance Lessons** will begin in March every Friday evening at 7 PM

• **April 16 • 6:30 AM Easter Sunrise** service on lawn

• **April 16 • 10:30 AM Easter Service**

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Rev Dan Poling

**Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**

**BAPTIST CHURCH**

388-6614

Pastor Charles V. Boucher  
Cherryl Boucher, Associate Pastor

**Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**

Sunday School (preschool–8th) at 10:30 AM

Youths Groups meet Wednesdays and Fridays: call for more information

• **Mar 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Apr 5 • 12 NOON Lenten Luncheons** Bring bag lunch

• **April 13 • 7 PM Maundy Thursday** service

• **April 16 • 6:30 AM Easter Sunrise** service at Presbyterian Church lawn

• **April 16 • 10:30 AM Easter Service**

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588-2180

Rev. Richard A. Smith

**Mass Schedule**

**Saturday 4:15 PM**

**Sunday 8 & 10:30 AM**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** ½ hour before all weekend masses and by request.

**Baptism:** By appointment

**Marriage:** Couple should make arrangements six months prior to the wedding

**Sacrament of the Sick:** Please notify the Rev. Smith at the Rectory if someone is sick in the hospital or confined at home. Call 588-2180.

**HEALTH CARE MEETING**

Share your ideas and community needs. On Thursday, March 30th from 1-3pm at the Antrim Town Hall, 66 Main St., Antrim, the Endowment for Health invites individuals and organizations from Antrim and the surrounding communities to participate in a conversation about health issues in your community and our state. The Endowment is a nonprofit foundation that funds projects to improve the health and reduce the burden of illness of the residents of New Hampshire. For more information contact the Endowment by email at [plepage@endowmentforhealth.org](mailto:plepage@endowmentforhealth.org) or call me at 228-2448.

— Yvonne Nanasi

**TROOP 2 BOY SCOUTS**

Thanks to the generous support of area residents through their Christmas wreath purchases, 10 Troop 2 Boy Scouts will be attending camp at Hidden Valley, July 9-15, this year. The addition of the mailed reservation cards helped to make this the best sales year for some time.

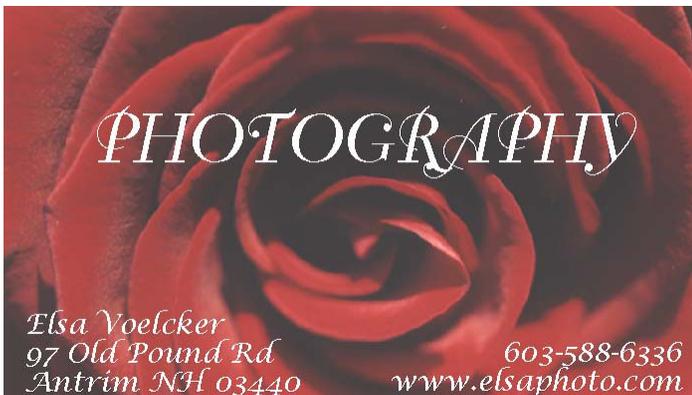
This spring's troop program includes a day of skiing at a local ski area, attending the Spring Camporee, the annual Hike-a-Thon from Bennington to Deering, placing flags in the Bennington cemetery with the Bennington VFW, trail maintenance at Antrim's Lily Pond, and marching in the annual Memorial Day parade. For more information about Troop 2 or to volunteer to help as an adult leader, contact Brian Beihl, 588-3014. ❖

**GBS STUDENTS' WINTER POETRY**

**CRAWLING IN POWDER**

By: Mitch Reynolds

Puffy white cold  
Diving deep, covered head to toe  
Trying to lift up, it's heavy you must know  
Still stuck!



PHOTOGRAPHY

*Elsa Voelcker*  
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room in real life, there would be no way that one could not be aware of her commanding energy. In this way, as in so many aspects of her being, she was truly a larger-than-life presence.

It was a real treat to hear Izi sing in church. In those days she had a very rich and resonant mezzo soprano voice, and an ability to go in and sight-read anything that she might be asked to sing. She would also from time to time play in church, but if memory serves me, those times would be reserved for special events or holidays. One such holiday was Easter, when the Baptists and Presbyterians would combine to have a sunrise service on Meeting House Hill (in front of the Grange Hall). For a few years running she would also enlist the aid of some of her choristers from her high school chorus, and I have a very comical memory of Izi sitting at the old pump organ that had been dragged up from the Baptist church pumping out an Invocation while wearing black, woolen gloves.

I also remember Izi singing a very funny duet called "Carried Away" with her brother Charles. This tune not only required good singing and harmonizing, but comic timing as well, and the duo achieved both. I'm not quite sure, but it may have been in this same show that Izi also sang a trio with her mother (Vera Butterfield) and Mae Perkins. They sang the McGuire Sisters' arrangement of "Sugar Time". This performance sounded exactly like the McGuire Sisters' version by virtue of Izi's incredible ability to precisely "lift" an arrangement from a recording by ear. Speaking of Izi's ear, one time Larry Nay, Mike Chase and I wanted to perform the Lettermen's arrangement of "I Believe." It wasn't possible to buy this arrangement so I went down to Izi's house one night, album in hand, to ask her if she might find time in the near future to transcribe it for us. She told me to have a seat (I can see this in my mind's eye as if it were yesterday) and said, "Give me the album." I gave it to her, and she put it on the hi-fi, sat down on the couch with a pencil and some manuscript paper, and as the song was playing, transcribed it. To me, at that time, this was nothing short of magical. In a few minutes I was on my way to find Larry and Mike to start learning the song.

Izi seemed so matter-of-fact about her remarkable musical gift. I have worked with many talented musicians over the years, but never one with better all-encompassing musical ability. Once in a while, for my own amusement (or as Izi would say, "my own amazement") when I was in her music room taking a piano lesson, I would play random notes, and without looking she would call out their names. It was not possible to fool her even if I would put both elbows down in two locations of the keyboard simultaneously. She once told me that the first time she really became aware of this ability was when she was in a class in the

fore-mentioned old Antrim High School, and there was a music class going on in the next room. She said that at the end of her class she ran over to the room where the music had been playing and said to Mrs. Felker, her music teacher, "That last song you were playing on the piano was in the key of G!" Mrs. Felker confirmed the accuracy of Izi's observation as if this recognition was no great feat. Izi said, "I think Mrs. Felker thought, 'big deal, who wouldn't know that.'—since she, herself, had this ability it was not all that remarkable." On another occasion when Izi took some of her students to a concert at her alma mater, The New England Conservatory of Music, she introduced me to the piano teacher she had studied with during her college years. I don't recall the woman's name, but I do remember her saying that Izi was the kind of student who could come to her lesson without having practiced and still have a good lesson. I recognized that, although this had been a compliment, it also indicated that perhaps Izi had not necessarily always been so well prepared for her lessons.

Starting in my freshman year in high school I began taking piano lessons from Izi on a fairly regular basis. It was never quite as organized as it might have been, but nonetheless I learned a lot from her during those years. It was way back then that we first played two piano duets. I believe the first one we ever played together was "Dizzy Fingers", which we performed at one of the yearly recitals she would have for her students in the vestry of the Baptist Church. Izi also made it possible for me to teach my first piano lessons. Steve Sawyer, who later went on to become very active in Green Peace, was about ten years old at the time, and Izi thought that maybe he would relate well to a young teacher not that much older than himself.

Larry Nay, Brian Reilly, Mike Chase, Hal Grant, Bill Hurlin and I had a little Dixieland combo all throughout our high school years. We started out calling ourselves *The Dixieland Six*, but shortly after and for the rest of our high school years became known as *Izi's Boys*. We thought it only fitting since everything we did we owed to Izi's helping us by writing many of the arrangements we played and rehearsing us at her house on an almost weekly basis. She made it possible for us to play in many shows, "tour" at some nursing homes, play in a talent contest on a TV show that was broadcast out of Poland Springs, Maine, and even play for a couple of school dances. Perhaps one of our fondest recollections, though, is when we got to meet and play for Randy Brooks. Largely through Barry Proctor's connections at Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center, we got "critiqued" by this legend who had played with Les Brown's band and recorded the most famous trumpet rendition of "Tenderly."

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## THE GRAPEVINE

Kristen Vance, Director

Residents of Antrim, Hancock, Bennington and Frankestown will see a warrant article in this year's town report asking the voters to raise and appropriate funds to support The Grapevine. The total amount requested from the four towns is \$15,000, and each town's share was determined by population. The result is the equivalent of about \$2 per person in each of the towns, with Antrim's warrant article requesting \$5,250. The Selectboards in all four towns support the articles.

The funding will support community projects, including the People's Service Exchange and the wood bank, and the development of new community resources through citizen groups like the Brown Bag Coalition (which started the Before School Club), and the 4-Town Group (which started the community suppers and the People's Service Exchange).

### BEFORE SCHOOL CLUB 2006-07 PRE-REGISTRATION

I asked Becky Paquette if she would mind saying a few words about the Before School Club, and she said this: "It has been very helpful, with me working at Great Brook. Sally gets a chance to play and get her homework done, and I have peace of mind. I'm so glad you all did it—it was really needed." If you would like to pre-register your Antrim Elementary School or Great Brook School student for the 2006-07 school year, please call The Grapevine.

The Before School Club is a project of the Brown Bag Coalition (BBC) and The Grapevine, sponsored by Antrim Parks and Recreation. Fees for the program are on a sliding scale, with partial scholarships available thanks to the support of several local employers. The BBC was convened by The Grapevine in 2003, and is now focusing on after school and summer programs for children of working families. At this writing, 36 children are enrolled in the Before School Club.

### THE PEOPLE'S SERVICE EXCHANGE—A TEASER

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consulting, **Digital editing**, Business accounting support, **Light construction**.

You can get these services and over 130 more *at no cost* by joining The People's Service Exchange. The Exchange is a neighbor-helping-neighbor network. Members trade their services for credits called "time dollars," which they can then use to purchase the services they need. The People's Service Exchange was initiated by residents of Antrim, Hancock, Bennington and Frankestown, with help from The Grapevine and start-up grants from the Henry L. and Patricia J. Nielsen Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation Monadnock Region and Endowment for Health. It's easy to join—call Exchange Coordinator Christine Polito at The Grapevine for more information.

### COMMUNITY WOODBANK

At this writing it looks like the firewood in the community woodbank will once again last through the heating season, thanks to Robblee's Tree Service, Wayno Olson, Ben Pratt, John Vance, the Martel clan, Ernie and Rose Litchfield, Gene Willett, Kirk Schellinger, Eduarde Hristache, Dwayne Herrick and Kim Hugron. As of early February, the woodbank has heated the homes of 13 families who could not afford to purchase wood this year.

### WEEKLY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The Grapevine welcomes all children birth to 5 years and their parents to our weekly children's programs. The Aiken Street Barn, where The Grapevine is located, is fully accessible.

Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 — Better Beginnings playgroup

Mondays 2-4pm—Monday Play Time

Tuesdays 9:30 to 11:30 — Better Beginnings playgroup

Thursdays 9:30 to 11:30 — Better Beginnings playgroup

Fridays 10:00 to 11:30 — Better Beginnings for Babies

Please call ahead to register for Better Beginnings playgroups. Parents are welcome to just drop in on Better Beginnings for Babies and Monday Play Time. Feel free to call us for more information.

### PRE-REGISTER NOW FOR PRESCHOOL

Now is a good time to schedule a visit with The Learning Vine preschool for you and your child. The Grapevine is accepting pre-registrations for children 3 ½ to 5 years of age by September 2006, for both the drop-off and parent cooperative options.

### SPECIAL CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

#### Parenting Series—"The Preschool Years"

This 4 Week Parenting Series with Learning Vine Teacher Carol Lunan M.Ed will include preschool development, self-es-

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teem, conflict resolution, setting limits and related topics. Fridays this spring, from 12:00-1:00 (bring your own lunch, childcare provided first come, first served). For more information, dates, fees and to sign up, please call The Grapevine.

**Free April Vacation Fun**

Royal Preschoolers, Tuesday April 18 from 9:30-11:30: A day of dress-up, tea parties & fun for 3 1/2 -5 year olds. Parents enjoy "royal treatment" and relaxation in our parent room.

Outdoor Adventure for parents and children together, Thursday April 20 from 9:30-11:30. Nature scavenger hunts, mud painting, signs of spring, and more outdoor fun for 3-6 year olds and their parents.

These programs are free. Please call 588-2620 to sign up.

**Second Mondays at The Grapevine**

**March 13<sup>th</sup>** – "Teen Victims of Violence," facilitated by Karen Fitzpatrick of Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention. View a film about teenage victims of violence with follow-up discussion.

**April 10<sup>th</sup>** – "Healthy Habits Start Early," a panel discussion with professionals and parents about what we can do in the preschool years to prevent drug and alcohol use in our youth.

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** – "Raising Cain" In Celebration of Mother's Day, discussion for mothers and fathers on raising boys in our modern world. View excerpts from the PBS documentary "Raising Cain."

About Second Mondays: Discussions run from 6:30 to 8:00pm. Walk-ins are welcome, but we encourage people to call The Grapevine to sign up in advance. On-site childcare can be available for participants who sign up two weeks before the discussion.

**April Walk**

Tune up your strollers and lace up your walking shoes for The Grapevine's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Walk for Families on Saturday, April 29. Participants may walk 1, 3 or all 5 miles. Last year's walk in Hancock enticed 50 adults and children out on a warm and sunny April morning. We can only hope that the weather for this year's walk—which we think will be in Bennington—will be as pleasant. April is "Strengthening Families Month," and a good time to walk in support of our families. Look for details in the papers, around town, and on [www.antrimnh.org](http://www.antrimnh.org) in late March, early April.

**COMMUNITY SUPPERS REPORT**

The Antrim Democratic Committee served up chili, macaroni and cheese, cornbread and a variety of sweets at the Decem-

ber supper. Diners enjoyed petting a real live donkey, who walked from his home on Pleasant street with his people, the Burnhams. David Essex distributed door prizes—glass ornaments made and donated by Chris Baker-Salmon.

The January supper was a smorgasbord of local family favorites, with donations helping GBS students raise funds for their annual trip to Washington D.C. The February supper was canceled due to church suppers that week, and the Girl Scouts are planning and preparing the feast for March 16 (also Town Meeting night, and a good opportunity to sup with your neighbors).

**SERVICES AT THE GRAPEVINE**

Information & Referral: Information about area resources for financial assistance, food, childcare, legal assistance, clothing, health and dental care, and other needs.

- Community Wood Bank
- Heating Fuel & Electric Assistance information.
- Child & Family Counseling provided by Monadnock Family Services.
- Family Conflict Resolution offered by Milford Area Mediation Services.
- Help finding meaningful employment: A.C.C.E.S.S. offers support for people with disabilities in their search for meaningful employment.
- Help finding shelter: for families who are homeless.
- Healthy Kids Insurance application assistance.
- Visitation Site for noncustodial parents and their children.

**ABOUT THE GRAPEVINE FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER**

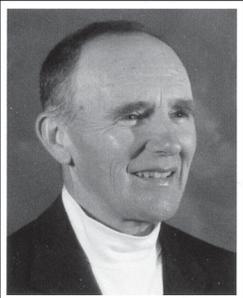
Call The Grapevine at 588-2620 for more information about the above services or to register for programs. We welcome visits. The Grapevine is a nonprofit service organization funded by grants and local support. Our mailing address is PO Box 637, Antrim. ❖

**GBS STUDENTS' WINTER POETRY**

**SNOW FORT**

By: Anna Tempone

Gather the snow  
As we pack and pound,  
Use our hands  
And move around.  
How fun!



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None of this would have been possible without Izi. Oh yes, and she also made it possible for us to participate in a Jazz Festival at Hawthorne College that featured Herb Pomeroy's Band as well as a number of other notable jazz musicians from Boston.

Izi wrote, directed and produced several musicals during her career, but the one that is very dear to our hearts was called "Goofus." She said that she wrote it essentially as a vehicle for Larry, Brian and me—to showcase our talent. It featured Izi's Boys with chorus parts that included any one who wanted to participate, but the three of us were graduating that year, and she wanted to let us shine. She also insisted that Larry and Brian play and that I sing for graduation, as well as guiding me through my first real musical composition, our class song. Through no fault of Izi's the song was very unmemorable.

During the years after leaving Antrim High I didn't see Izi very much, but we were fairly consistently in communication. Sixteen years after I graduated Izi had a heart attack, and it was then that I felt that I would like to do something to let her know how much she had meant to me through the years. At that time I had a little musical troupe consisting of about a dozen performers that I called *The Big Broadcast*, and I decided that I would bring them all up for a week-end and do a two night show billed as "A Tribute to Izi." Since the 1940s had been Izi's era, we performed music largely from that time period. There was a delightful little jazz number called "Club Indigo" that Izi had written for "Goofus" that I specially arranged for three young women to sing in a club act that we were doing in New York. We dedi-

cated this to Izi at that tribute performance. A few weeks before we arrived I called Izi and told her that I thought it would be great if she would do a number to cap off the evening at each of the two shows we were planning. Although Izi herself wasn't feeling up to performing, we were all pleasantly surprised when her daughter, Jane got up and sang a song (accompanied by Izi) that Izi had written for the occasion. It was a hilarious song entitled "I Just Can't Seem To Hit The High Notes Anymore" that allowed as how her "pipes" no longer functioned as in years gone by. During the times that I referred to earlier when Izi would sing at church, there was an elderly choir director at the Baptist Church by the name of Elizabeth Tenney who was forever be-moaning the fact that she couldn't sing the high notes anymore. Poor Mrs. Tenney's plight of all those years ago became the inspiration for this extremely witty little ditty brilliantly performed by Jane *a la* Elizabeth Tenney. When Izi and Jane took the stage for this number "There wasn't a dry seat in the house", as Izi would say.

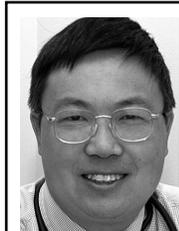
When I first came back to New Hampshire in the late eighties I did a whole series of shows with the Antrim Players called "Popcycles." These were a series of reviews that generally concentrated on a given decade. These shows were very extravagant with a cast of thousands that continued more or less annually for several years. Although by this time in her life Izi wasn't up to taking on the putting together of a whole show by herself, she always participated by writing musical arrangements for these shows as well as performing in them. It was at this point that I really came to know Izi as a peer. We performed as a

 continued on next page

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piano duo (dueling pianos) in many shows not only in the Antrim Town Hall, but at numerous fund-raisers in the larger community as well. Performing with Izi like this always filled me with so much joy, and she told me that she felt the same.

Of course Izi was so much more than just a musician. She loved hot weather and swimming, and hated snakes and vegetables. Among her many other interests were reading, writing, dance, visual arts, genealogy, and history. She knew volumes about world history, American history, and Antrim history. Everybody would go to Izi if they had questions about local people and/or events dating from Antrim's inception to the present day. She could not only supply a general over-view, but quite often would proffer little-known anecdotes as well. Izi had an affinity for examining the more amusing idiosyncrasies and behaviors of local "characters," and often remarked to me how interesting it would be to write a musical containing these people. We both decided that it would not be so easy to do without seeming unkind, and that it would probably not be so "politically correct".

I, too, have an interest in genealogy, and one day I was telling Izi how my mother and I had been researching the Wilson side her family, and how I had actually stood at the graves of seven generations of Wilson grandfathers leading back to James Wilson from Londonderry, NH. When I mentioned seeing the headstone of James' wife, Jane Taggart, and how this woman had lived into her late nineties with well over a hundred grand and great-grand children at the time of her death, Izi said, "I

think that is a name I remember in my Wilson line." She went to her genealogical records, and, sure enough, Izi's third great-grandmother (Martha Wilson McClure, buried in the North Branch Cemetery) was the granddaughter of James Wilson and Jane Taggart. "This makes us sixth cousins, once removed", exclaimed Izi. After we had a good laugh over this, Izi expressed an interest in going to the cemetery in Londonderry to actually see the headstone that my mother and I had located. I will always remember that beautiful, sunny autumn day when Izi packed a picnic lunch and together we drove to an ancient cemetery in Londonderry so she could do a gravestone rubbing of our common ancestor.

Izi was my teacher, my mentor, my inspiration, and my friend. I already miss her very much, and I will forever be in her debt. A few years ago I wrote Izi a letter thanking her for everything that she meant to me, and all she made possible for me. I would like to close these meanderings with the last lines of that letter.

"I am so thankful for having been able to spend most of my adult life with music being the primary force. None of this would have been possible without the gift of you as teacher and mentor. I will always be grateful for what you have given me, and I love you for it."



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