

Happy Fall to all Bobcats!

Kat Foecking
GBS Principal

I am so proud of our GBS community for their dedication and support as we completed 53 days of school with students and staff members in the building. Not only did the students and teachers follow all of the safety protocols that were developed in our District Reopening Plan, but they did so with fidelity and grace. It was the actions of so many that allowed us to keep our doors open the whole time.

Not only did our teachers and students build their community within our four walls, but that community reached to all parts of our district as they collaborated with our remote students over Zoom and through Google Classroom. While this was certainly not how I imagined my first year as the principal of GBS to be, I have found myself in a community of compassionate, creative, and energetic learners and educators.

During the remote segment of our calendar, staff will be working hard to not only ensure that academic progress is being made, but we will also be working to maintain and build upon the connections we made during the first part of the school year. For so many, the social-emotional connections are just as important as the academic work. As we move into the holiday season, it is our hope that families in our district will continue to be vigilant about mask wearing, hand washing, and maintaining distance so we can return back to the building on January 19th.

The ConVal district and GBS have many resources available for families who may need extra support during this remote time and into the holidays. Please reach out to us if you or someone you know needs anything. You can call (603) 588-6630 or email kfoecking@conval.edu.

I wish you and your family a healthy winter and a peaceful holiday season. ✨

What we CAN do During a Pandemic

Jacqueline Roland
Avenue A Coordinator

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone this year. Daily routines and even annual traditions have been disrupted. This can feel overwhelming, especially for young people. *“Everything feels different now,”* teens tell me all the time. For even the most resilient teen (or adult!), it’s hard not to feel weary after so much uncertainty and change.

Serving youth during this time is challenging. The need for support is greater than ever. At the same time, how we are able to offer programs has changed. Large groups and beloved activities like pick-up basketball are not possible right now. In the midst of this, our volunteers and teens are using their creativity and thoughtfulness to focus on what we **can** do.

We **can** talk about emotional responses and day-to-day challenges that youth face. Volunteer Jamie Hamilton facilitates peer support around these topics during our “Life Stuff” group meetings. Thanks to our compassionate volunteers and teens who are peer leaders, a culture of sharing and support is the norm throughout all of our programs.

We **can** provide outlets for socialization and connection. Through our in-person and virtual programs we continue to offer teens opportunities to connect. Our volunteers recognize that this is vital to youth, and they structure our programs accordingly. If our woodworking group takes a break from their project because a meaningful conversation is happening—it’s a good day. If our hiking group stops to sit on boulders and chat instead of hiking farther, it’s okay. Actually, it’s awesome! Isolation is dangerous, and we’re doing everything we can to combat it!



GBS students working in their outdoor classroom

Limrik Staff

Managing Editor	Joan Gorga	588-2569
Editor Emeritus	Lyman Gilmore	588-6860
Business Manager	Ral Burgess	588-6650
Contributing Artist	Virginia Dickinson	
Page Layout & Design	Connie Kirwin	
Photo Editor	Frank Gorga	

The Limrik was founded November 1991 by Beverly Tenney, Lois Harriman, and Nancy Timko.

It is published quarterly: March, June, September, and December and is delivered free to every mailing address in Antrim. The Limrik does not receive any town funds and is supported entirely by subscription and advertising revenue.

— SUBSCRIPTIONS —

Subscriptions are available at \$15 per year. Please make checks payable to the Antrim Limrik and mail order to:

Subscriptions
Antrim Limrik
PO Box 84
Antrim, NH 03440

— ADVERTISING RATES —

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 February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10. Ad content is subject to approval by the Managing Editor and the Business Manager. For more information and specifications on sizes, contact Ral Burgess at: 588-6650 or business@antrimlimrik.org.

— SUBMISSIONS —

The Limrik welcomes submissions of articles, drawings, photographs, news and calendar items by, for and about the people of Antrim. Submission deadlines are February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10. Submissions should be no more than 1500 words in length and should be submitted in digital form as a Microsoft Word-compatible document attached to an email. Submissions should be sent by email to Joan Gorga at: editor@antrimlimrik.org. Call 588-2569 for more information or to discuss ideas.

— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

The Limrik accepts letters to the editor of maximum length of 250 words. Publication is subject to the Editor's discretion. Email letters to Joan Gorga at: editor@antrimlimrik.org.

— WEBSITE —

www.antrimlimrik.org

Antrim Racism Study Group

Linda Bundy

The Antrim Racism Study Group meets the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. We work together to ask questions, explore issues, and seek answers. In October our discussion centered on Martin Luther King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." Our November meeting focused on the video "Healing from a Life of White Supremacy," an interview by sociologist Michael Kimmel with two former white supremacists, as well as selected poems from *Raising King* by Joseph Ross. For December 17th we'll be reading and discussing *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. New people are always welcome. Even if you haven't done the reading, feel free to join us. Contact Linda Bundy at n_bundy@mcttelecom.com or 588-2254. ✨

Thanks to ...

Marguerite Roberts and Karen Weisswange for faithfully delivering *The Limrik* to sites all over town every quarter. — Editor

Edmunds **ACE** Hardware

MAIN STREET
Antrim

588-6565

MAPLE STREET
Henniker

428-3265

OPEN

Monday – Saturday • 7 am – 5:30 pm

ACE
Hardware

Now offering **FedEx** shipping
at our Antrim location

RICK EDMUNDS, PRESIDENT

www.edmundsstore.com

Selectmen's Report

John Robertson

It's been a busy fall for all with two elections. A record number made their choices on November 3rd with 1598 votes cast.

The Select Board has been busy receiving the 2021 budget requests from the various departments. The board will receive all requests and then develop a final budget to be presented at the budget hearing in early February. Separate warrant articles will be prepared by December 14th.

At the November 9th Select Board meeting the tax rate for the coming year was set at \$28.55/1000 valuation. Over the last seven years the town portion of the tax rate has remained flat or has decreased. We are happy to report that once again it will remain flat this year at \$10.57. However, the school portion of the tax rate has increased from \$13.18 to \$14.80, representing a 12% increase.

Looking back on 2020, many obstacles have challenged us. Town services at the Town Hall and library were severely curtailed. Voting days required a lot more work than normal in order to keep everyone safe. The Select Board wants to recognize Town Moderator Arthur Merrill, Town Clerk Diane Chauncey, all the Supervisors of the Checklist and the numerous volunteers that worked long hours organizing and managing a very safe and successful election day under unprecedented voter turnout conditions. Hopefully, 2021 will be less challenging. However, the town office will continue to have limited access for the foreseeable future.

2021 will bring two projects to us. They are repairs to the Gregg Lake dam and needed improvements to our highway garage facility. The dam has been found to have several deficiencies. Improvements at the highway garage include an exhaust system and physical plant improvements. Please try to attend the budget hearing as they will be more fully explained.

Let's all look forward to things getting better both politically and socially in 2021. Stay safe by wearing a mask, stay socially distanced, and stay home if you don't feel well.

As always, the Select Board is here to serve you. Feel free to participate. ❁

The Antrim Planning Department

ANNUAL RECAP

Ashley Brudnick-Destromp
Planning Board Assistant

The Antrim Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustments had a very productive and busy year even with the effects of COVID-19.

The Planning Board had four preliminary conceptual consultations and five applications consisting of subdivisions, site plan reviews, and a home-based business application. Some of the main topics 2020 brought before the board were minor subdivisions, a wool business, and the preliminary stages of a commercial development on Route 202 near the Hillsborough line. The Planning Board also reviewed several potential amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, the most significant being a re-write of the Shoreland Protection Overlay District. People living within 250 feet of the shoreland who want to develop or make changes to their property need a permit either from the State, from the Town, or from both. Residents, as well as Town Staff, find the process confusing and the re-write is an attempt to clarify what is and what is not allowed within the shoreland and what is the process of approval.

The Antrim Zoning Board of Adjustments (ZBA) granted several variances for lot size requirements, approved an after-the-fact violation of wetlands set-back requirements, and denied an excavation permit.

The Planning Board welcomed Amy Mullahy as a Board member and Michael Redmond as an alternate. The ZBA welcomed Chris Parks and Janet McEwen as two new alternates and Diane Kendall moved her position from alternate to Vice Chair. Mark D. Murdough chaired the Planning Board for the first time and John Giffin remained Chairman for the ZBA. John Anderson became Vice Chair of the Planning Board for the first time. Both boards focused on continuing education for themselves and attended multiple webinars and lectures with the help of Zoom.

Speaking of Zoom, 2020 was the first time ever that Public Hearings/Meetings were accessible virtually for both boards.

The Capital Improvements Committee (CIP) moved quickly this fall, and had site visits with the Highway Department, the Transfer Station, and the Fire Department despite everything going on. Bob Holmes chaired the CIP and Victor Rosansky acted as Vice Chair.

The entire Planning Department wants to thank the community for their participation and involvement with Public Hearings/Meetings, as well as thanking the other department heads who were asked for recommendations. ❁

Thank you ...

to Richard Verney, owner of the Monadnock Paper Mills, for his generous donation of the paper on which the *Limrik* is printed.



We are committed to careful service during this critical time. **Stay safe.**

588-2442

NH License #2456

We **can** encourage healthy outlets for coping and expression. From the hiking and biking groups we offered this fall, to art programs, music jams and creative writing club, our talented volunteers model healthy outlets for youth. Harriet DiCicco mentored youth as our amazing hiking program volunteer this summer and fall. Harris Center naturalist John Benjamin brought his infectious enthusiasm for the outdoors to our teens. Dave Fish led our weekly biking group in September, and Mark Hatch encouraged our jam night teens during their weekly gatherings this fall. Marcy Pope inspires our art group with activities that spark creativity. And, Write Out! facilitator Adam Arnone supports our teens in expressing themselves through writing.

We **can** still give back. Our teens love using their talents to help our community, and that feels especially meaningful this season. Our woodworking and carpentry group teens restored a bench for the Tuttle Library and built Little Free Food Pantries this fall. At our art group, teens are creating handmade Thanksgiving cards for Antrim Village residents. Through our Write Out! program, teens are writing meaningful articles about mental health for a monthly Monadnock Ledger-Transcript column, provided in partnership with Monadnock Community Hospital's Be the Change Task Force.

We **can** still laugh. And, we do a lot of that! At our afterschool program for middle schoolers, we have a set of "Flickin Chickens"—delightful rubber chickens that "fly" when you slingshot their stretchy rubber legs. The Grapevine lawn is often filled with gleeful shouts as these chickens sail across bushes and trees and through leaf piles! During



Teens sit on a boulder overlooking Juggernaut Pond in Hancock during our hiking group. Photo by Jacqueline Roland.

our Fridays on the Lawn program, teens come up with crazy obstacle courses. One week they ran around the outside of The Grapevine building with lawn chairs on their heads in a surprisingly intense footrace. Teens clutched chairs as they charged up Aiken Street, rounded the corner into the library parking lot, and then dashed back into The Grapevine driveway. Passing cars looked on in amazement.

Yes, much has changed. Yet we are grateful for things that haven't changed—our volunteers' commitment to supporting youth, our awesome teens who support each other, and our community that supports us! In October the Bantam Grill in Peterborough donated the proceeds from their annual Beast Master's dinner to our programs for youth. They raised over \$8,000 for our programs! We are so lucky to have local businesses like Bantam that step up to help us!

In November we received exciting news that our volunteer Jocelynn Drew was awarded the Lucy Fowlkes Breed Family Service volunteer award from The New Hampshire Children's Trust! Jocelynn is a champion for youth in our community. We are so excited to see her recognized with this award!

This winter we plan to continue offering virtual programs for youth and in-person gatherings when it is safe to do so. Please check avenueatc.org, email us at avenuea@grapevinenh.org for more info or find us on [Facebook.com/AvenueATeenCenter](https://www.facebook.com/AvenueATeenCenter). ✨



ANTRIM
LUMBER COMPANY

Building Materials

Mon.—Fri. 7 to 5
Sat. 7—1
Closed Sundays

78 Smith Road
P.O. Box 148
Antrim, NH 03440
603-588-2139

Operation Santa 2020 Needs Your Help

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE SANTA

Rick Wood

Over the years Operation Santa has been able to provide as many as 80–100 area children at least a little better Christmas for those parents who may be financially strapped. The Antrim–Bennington Lions have raised as much as \$2,500 a year for Operation Santa that will not be available this year.

As mentioned in the last *Limrik*, Operation Santa needs your help to raise funds to make up for fund-raising opportunities cancelled due to the virus pandemic. For those who may not be familiar with the Operation Santa program, there is a dedicated team who send out applications every year to local elementary/middle schools. Parents fill out the form for children who may need assistance with basic needs during Christmas giving. Though the deadline for those submissions has passed, there are some still available at Bank of New Hampshire. Operation Santa anticipates the need will be even greater this year in spite of donations being down. So, we need your help.

If you're in the position to assist Operation Santa by making a gift donation you can do so by taking tags from Giving Trees located at Trends of Fashion and the Tuttle Library. Bank of New Hampshire, although open only for drive-through and ATM service, will still have tags in the vestibule where the ATM is located. Tags will be taped to the window at the left. To drop off gifts, simply ring the bell at the door and someone will be glad to receive them. Gift tags will also be available on Giving Wreaths at the Dodge Library and the Bennington Garage. Cash donations will be accepted at the Bank of New Hampshire or can be mailed to the address below. In addition, the A-B Lions will be donating proceeds of the annual Christmas tree sales held each Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. at Tenney Farm, typically starting just after Thanksgiving. Please make out all checks to A–B Lions Club.

Because the annual Festival of Trees at the Tuttle Library has been cancelled this year, the annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Library with the visit from Santa will not occur. The good news is that Operation Santa and the Lions Club have invited Santa to help them sell the Christmas



Trees at Tenney Farm the first two Saturdays from 11 a.m.–2 p.m., weather permitting. If you do not need a tree or simply want to drop off a donation, you can do so at these events. Santa will offer social-distance picture opportunities.

Again, if you cannot visit one of the Giving Tree or Giving Wreath locations or simply prefer to use PayPal or mail a donation, please make out checks to A–B Lions Club and send your cash or check donation to:

Operation Santa
155 Keene Rd,
Antrim, NH 03440

The Lions Club will acknowledge each donation using the return address on the envelope.

If you have any questions please contact A–B Lions Club member Rick Wood at rd_wood@comcast.net.

The Lions Club is a Section 501(c)(3) organization. ✨



Main Street
P.O. Box 265
Antrim, NH 03440
Ofc: 603-588-2130
Fax: 603-588-3036

Paul E. Hardwick, Broker
Cell: 603-491-3928 • Res: 603-588-2724

Maria Isotti, Realtor • 533-5413
E-mail: appleshedrealty@tds.net

MIKE'S Towing & Recovery

- Towing
- Recovery
- Fuel
- Junk Car Removal
- Lock Outs
- Jump Starts
- Equipment Transport

Bennington, NH **24 hr. cell 554-6465**
www.mikestowingandrecoverynh.com

Southern NH Tour Of Lights



Be part of the magic! Decorate your house for the holidays!

Enter your home by December 6th, 2020

Viewing will be December 11-27th, 2020

Entries for this free event will have the chance to win a gift certificate to a local business in your area.

Contact your local Recreation Department to enter!

(Participating Recreation Departments listed below)



Antrim Festival of Trees and Recreation Department Collaborate with the Southern NH Tour of Lights

Celeste Lunetta, Recreation Director

Antrim Festival of Trees and the Recreation Department are joining with several other communities to create a tour of holiday magic! We invite and encourage everyone to participate as a decorator or a viewer to help bring light and joy to the 2020 Holiday Season.

To enter your decorated home in the tour, contact Antrim Recreation at 588-3121 or email antrimrecreation@tds.net.

Additionally, a form to sign up can be uploaded from the town website, www.antrimnh.org.

Register your home with Antrim Recreation by December 6 to be included on the Antrim Map. When you enter, you become eligible for a drawing for a gift certificate to a local vendor.

More details are posted on www.antrimnh.org. ✨



Country Nights and Holiday Lights

FESTIVAL OF TREES

Kristy Boulé

We don't want to let the spirit of Antrim's Festival of Trees become another casualty of COVID. To keep the Spirit of Sparkle alive, the committee is encouraging everyone to light up their homes, yards or spaces with holiday lights. As simple as candles in the window or as extravagant as a full-blown display, our greater Antrim community will sparkle through the darkest month of the year! There'll be no problems social distancing while doing light rides and exploring our towns. Share pictures of your display or finds to our social media pages on Facebook and (new) Instagram. We anticipate complementing the work of the Antrim Recreation Department as they promote the Southern NH Light Tour.

We may not be able to share decorated trees in the town library, but we can certainly share from the comfort of our homes. Snap a pic of your tree and share it with us! Pics can be emailed to AntrimFOT@gmail.com or shared directly to our Facebook page. We'd love to see your trees and traditions no matter how early you may start decorating. We'll be posting some throw-back favorites from Festivals past, as well. We certainly don't want to be sharing the virus, but we can still share our creativity!

Wishing everyone a sparkling holiday season, and here's to 2021! ✨

The Limrik is printed by
Savron Graphics, Jaffrey
www.savron.com

Antrim in the Pandemic

Joan Gorga

As I write this in mid-November, the United States has passed the 11 million mark for reported COVID-19 cases and is closing in on 250,000 deaths directly attributed to the disease. New Hampshire has tallied 14,671 positive cases and 499 COVID-related deaths. After an initial peak in daily-reported new cases in New Hampshire from April through June, the number of new cases in the state decreased and stayed relatively low over the summer. Many of us who live in Antrim recognized how fortunate we are to live in a beautiful place where we could safely spend much of our summer out of doors. With restrictions in place to try to limit the virus spread, we managed to keep our town parks open for outdoor recreation, our library operational and many businesses open. Town Hall, police and fire and rescue squads kept on working, in spite of the challenges required to adapt to the pandemic conditions.

But, as is happening in much of the United States, new COVID cases in New Hampshire have recently spiked up, and are expected to continue rising. We're now seeing four times as many new cases each day as we had during the peak in May. Hospitalization rates are also increasing rapidly, although they have not yet hit the levels we saw in May. We in New Hampshire have not reached critical occupancy of hospital beds, as is now occurring in several states, but hospitals across the state are preparing to handle a new influx of patients.

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) gathers and reports data on the pandemic, with at least daily updates. Numbers of COVID tests administered, positive tests, hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID are all closely followed and reported at least down to the county level. At this time, hospitalization and death rates are not reported on a town-by-town basis, but active cases and cumulative numbers of cases are reported for all towns with more than 100 residents. To protect the privacy of individuals, small numbers are reported only as ranges—for instance, if a town has only a few active cases, it is reported as having 1-4 cases, rather than the specific number.

Hillsborough County, home of Manchester and Nashua, New Hampshire's two largest cities, has frequently led the state in the number of positive cases, but at this point, even Coos County is experiencing a rapid rise in the percentage of the population that has tested positive. To date, Hillsborough County has reported a total of 6,781 confirmed cases (that is, about 1.6% of the population, or 1 in 66 residents, has tested positive for COVID-19) and 328 deaths (about 1 in 1,250 residents has died from COVID-19). Cheshire County has reported 324 cases (about 0.4%, or 1 in 235 residents, testing positive) and 3 deaths (about 1 in 25,000 residents). Coos County has reported 230 cases (about 0.7%, or 1 in 137 residents, testing positive) and 3 deaths (about 1 in

✍️ — continued on page 8

10,000 residents).

To put these numbers in perspective, Big Horn County in Montana is currently identified as one of the US hotspots and is reporting that 1 in 8 residents (12.5%) have tested positive. Another hotspot, Eddy County in North Dakota, reports that 1 in 7 have tested positive (14%). Several other Midwestern and Western counties identified as hotspots are now reporting hundreds of new cases each day.

Where does Antrim fit into this scenario?

To date, Antrim has had a total of 24 confirmed COVID-19 cases. This translates to an infection rate of 0.89%, or about 1 in 112 Antrim residents, testing positive so far. Antrim’s infection rate is less than those of Manchester (1 in 40), Nashua (1 in 57) and Rindge (1 in 79) and comparable to the rates in Concord (1 in 118) and Hillsborough (1 in 118). Jaffrey (1 in 165), Peterborough (1 in 209) and Keene (1 in 259) all have somewhat lower cumulative infection rates, as do a number of other nearby towns (see Figure). Small total case numbers for Washington (7 cases), Dublin (9 cases), Greenfield (7 cases), Hancock (6 cases), Deering (7 cases) and Bennington (5 cases) make for possible error in the analysis, but most of these towns fall in the same moderate infection range as Jaffrey, Peterborough and Keene. Harrisville, Stoddard and Francestown all have had less than 5 positive cases, and thus are reported as having in the range of 1–4 cases. Nelson and Windsor have had no confirmed cases.

Who has the unenviable job of guiding us through this challenging landscape?

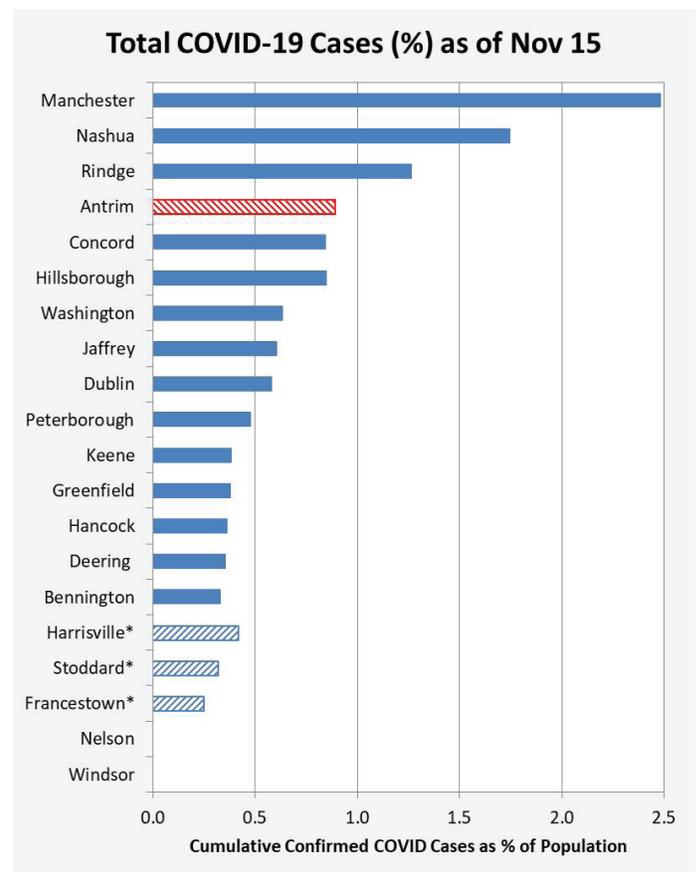
Antrim’s Health Officer is Marshall Gale, who is also our Fire Chief. Marshall has been coordinating closely with DHHS and NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management and locally with Police Chief Scott Lester and other department heads to set guidelines for safely allowing people access to town services and essential supplies while minimizing the spread of infection.

What happens when someone tests positive?

Antrim currently has 5 active cases, and has had as many as 6 active cases at one time. Health officers are available to give assistance and guidance on a strictly confidential basis. Because of HIPAA regulations and privacy laws, names and addresses of those who have tested positive are not made public, but individuals are monitored to be sure they are complying with DHHS orders to isolate or quarantine. Residents who are either sick with COVID-19 or have tested positive, whether or not they have symptoms, are required to isolate. This means staying home from work and not shopping or engaging in other public indoor activities. With Health Department approval, outdoor exercise is allowed, with six feet of distance maintained and a mask worn. The recommendation is also to stay in a different room from other residents of your home. Through contact tracing and follow-ups, information important to the health and safety of the town is ensured, and confidentiality is maintained.

Residents who’ve had contact with someone who has tested positive or who have returned from a trip outside of selected northeastern states are asked to quarantine. Quarantine requirements are quite similar to those of isolation, with the stipulation that they last for 14 days from the last possible exposure. If someone undergoing quarantine begins to feel ill, they then move to isolation. Everyone else is asked to self-observe, practice public health guidelines for hand washing and wearing face coverings, keep appropriate distances in social situations and be aware of COVID symptoms.

With COVID-19 cases rising in Antrim, as well as throughout New Hampshire, the rest of the United States and the world, it is likely that the pandemic will still be with us for some time. Weary as we are, it behooves us to maintain vigilance as much as we possibly can.



Data for this article were obtained from the NH Dept. of Health and Human Services (<https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>) and the New York Times COVID database (<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>), both updated with current data for November 15, 2020. ✨

The *Limrik* is privately published for, by, and about the people of Antrim. It does not receive any town funds and is entirely supported by subscriptions and advertising revenue.

Conservation Corner

Peter Beblowski

The question has come up in some recent discussions around town—just what are wetland buffers and why are they important?

Wetland/shoreland buffers are an important part of wetland/shoreland ecosystems because they decrease pollution, help control erosion and provide valuable wildlife habitat. It is important to remember that wetlands have several important functions and these functions are integrally connected to the buffer areas adjoining them. Wetlands, it should be remembered, act as sediment filters for stormwater, as reservoirs for flood control and as habitat for numerous types of wildlife.

Naturally occurring vegetated areas adjacent to rivers, streams and other aquatic areas, such as wetlands, ponds and lakes, are sometimes called riparian buffers. Under natural conditions, riparian buffers are surrounded by upland ecosystems, usually forests. When development or disturbance occurs in this protective shell, impacts are felt in both the upland and wetland ecosystems. These effects are generally referred to as edge effects. Edge effects have been documented to have impacts for at least several hundred feet and sometimes more. They tend to decrease in intensity with distance, so preservation of a wide buffer offers more protection to a wetland or waterbody than a narrow buffer.

An undisturbed natural forest offers the maximum protection to the waterbody or wetland it surrounds. The wider it is, the better. A disturbed buffer needs to be wider in order to offer benefits similar to those of a healthy narrower, undisturbed buffer.

There are numerous factors that influence the effectiveness of riparian buffers. These factors include precipitation, soil type, permeability, slope and the type and amount of vegetative cover in the buffer. The soil type affects how quickly water is absorbed into the ground, its possible erodibility and how quickly it becomes groundwater. Clay soils are less permeable so they tend to have greater runoff. On the other hand, soils comprised of mostly sand may drain so rapidly that roots may not be able to effectively trap pollutants. As slope increases, the speed at which water flows over the land also increases. When water flows fast over land, its erodibility also increases and the ability of the land to absorb eroded sediments and pollutants decreases. Therefore, an increase of buffer width is necessary. Vegetatively diverse buffers (those that have a diverse mix of trees, shrubs, and grasses) function better at retaining a wide range of pollutants and sediments than buffers that are less diverse, such as lawns or sporadic tree cover.

Some wetlands are biological supermarkets because they provide so much food for wildlife. Nearly every animal uses wetlands for habitat or has food sources that rely on wetlands. Some species of wildlife are tolerant to human disturbances in buffer areas; others not so much. Some need both wetland

and upland to survive, so the connectedness of both habitats is important as well. For just one example, many species of amphibians need wetlands for summer breeding habitat and require drier uplands for winter hibernation. The above are just some of the reasons the shoreland protection zone in both state and local zoning regulations have been set at 250 feet from the reference line at the edge of protected waters. ❁

Peter Beblowski Honored

Joan Gorga

Antrim's own incomparable Peter Beblowski was honored this fall as the 2020 Volunteer of the Year by the Monadnock Conservancy. Peter has served as a volunteer land steward for the Conservancy for more than fifteen years. Being a steward means walking properties under permanent conservation easements at least once a year to make sure they're maintaining their conservation values. To avoid possible conflicts of interest, stewards generally monitor properties outside the town in which they live. Peter monitors nine properties in Nelson, Harrisville and Greenfield, as well as one in Antrim. As a steward, Peter is able to answer questions or concerns landowners may have about the easements on their land, and says it generally becomes a pleasant working relationship as he gets to know the owners and their land over the years.

Besides his work for the Monadnock Conservancy, Peter is a longtime member of the Antrim Conservation Commission and has served as Chair for the last fifteen years or so. He also volunteers for the Harris Center for Conservation Education, worked on developing a Gregg Lake Watershed Management Plan and has served for several years as a member of the Antrim Water and Sewer Commission.

Peter's training as a consulting geologist and career spent working at the NH Department of Transportation and Department of Environmental Services give him a depth of knowledge and perspective that are particularly useful in environmental concerns. Although Peter recently retired, he finds himself busier than ever with his volunteer work. One of his long-term goals is to connect a network of trails through Antrim, to make it feasible to hike across Antrim on maintained trails without having to walk along busy roads. Peter played a major role in renovating the Meadow Marsh and Lily Pond trails, both of which are now ready for regular hiking traffic, with clearly marked trails, bridges and trailhead mailboxes containing maps and other informational guides. Work is also underway to construct a trail on town land at Campbell Pond. Several sweeps have been made to remove invasive plants on this property and work is progressing toward another trail in the growing Antrim network.

Please join us in congratulating Peter on his well-deserved honor as Monadnock Conservancy's 2020 Volunteer of the Year. ❁

Reflections of a Rookie School Board Member

Steve Ullman

The dumbest I have ever felt. On a summery September morning in 1961, at the age of seventeen, I tried to attend my first college class, Science 1, in the Sterling Law Library rather than where it was actually scheduled, the Sterling Laboratories (up the hill, a fifteen minute walk). Science 1 was known informally as “Science for the Unscientific” or, more unkindly, “Science for Nitwits.” I arrived harried, twenty minutes late for this very first class and immediately recognized that I was way out of my league even in this undemanding class. Teaching the course was a kindly distinguished Professor of Organic Chemistry, Harold Gomes Cassidy. Dr. Cassidy had optimistically convinced himself that he could instill a solid grasp of natural science in poorly prepared freshmen. I would soon pay him back for this delusion by haunting his office hours throughout the fall semester along with one Ab Lawrence, future captain of the football team. We regularly peppered Dr. Cassidy with boneheaded questions. He deserved much better.

The Second Dumbest I Have Ever Felt. Between 12:40 and 2 p.m. on Thursday, October 8th during the Zoom meeting of the ConVal Policy Committee, the cluelessness I had experienced as a seventeen-year-old returned lock, stock and barrel. I could not latch onto the discussion about what the District should do in light of the federal Department of Education’s newest guidance on Title IX (standards for gender equality).

Not only are the tasks that confront the current ConVal School Board complex but they will materially shape the future of some 2,100 ConVal students. I will need at least a year to grasp the legal, budgetary, and educational issues that challenge the board.

Thankfully, my colleagues on the school board are quite remarkable. There is an expert on municipal finance, a labor relations specialist, individuals who have served as executives in prominent corporations, and retired teachers and principals with extensive experience in public education. After years of service, they generously share their extensive expertise and institutional memory about public education.

I joined the ConVal Board in March, 2020, just as COVID-19 began placing extraordinary stress on administrators, teachers, parents and students. In a matter of days, the board asked teachers to fundamentally reinvent how they did their work. To say nothing about what the board requested of ConVal students and parents, i.e., just redesign your entire lives, folks. I can’t imagine how I would react to this kind of mandate but the administrators, teachers, parents and students have risen to the challenge.

Finally, you will be pleased to know that Antrim’s Rich Cahoon, in his role as Board Chair, has provided calm, patient far-sighted leadership throughout. ❁

HELP THE BOY SCOUTS GET TO THEIR NEXT ADVENTURE



ORDER YOUR BOY SCOUT DECORATED CHRISTMAS WREATHS TODAY! NO CONTACT SALE/DELIVERY

Every year the Boy Scouts of Troop 2 sell beautiful, fresh Christmas wreaths, each personally decorated by a Boy Scout, as one of their biggest fundraisers of the year.

This helps the boys with the costs of many of their activities throughout the year, including summer camp. They also did a week trip in NYC, 2 weeks in Yellowstone, a trip to Gettysburg, and more, with the help of wreath sales.

Because of COVID-19, all of their fundraising was canceled, and they need your help!

2 Sizes Available, Starting at \$20

Online Orders Will Be Delivered

Order Yours Today!
SCOUTWREATH.ORG

Office 603-827-3726
Cell 603-209-2858



hal grant

real estate

Email: halgrantrealestate@myfairpoint.net

110 Nelson Road
PO Box 328

Harrisville, NH 03450

James A. Tuttle Library

Cindy Jewett, Library Director

We are now open to the public, but we have a few guidelines in place to ensure everyone has a safe visit in the library. First, everyone must wear a face covering and use hand sanitizer upon entering the building. Second, we will allow a thirty-minute visit to use the computers, printer, copier, or to browse the shelves. Third, we will allow fifteen people (including staff) in the building at one time. Please practice social distancing and please do not enter if you are not feeling well. Again, please be considerate and do not enter if you are not feeling well. We will still offer curbside pickup for anyone who is not comfortable entering the building.

We look forward to seeing you.

Library Hours

Monday & Wednesday 2:00–6:00

Tuesday & Thursday 2:00–8:00

Friday 10:00–4:00 (temporary hours)

Saturday 10:00–4:00

Tech Help

Christopher is taking appointments for Tech Help on Wednesdays from 3:00–5:30. Call to reserve a spot. He can help with tablets, phones, computers, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Microsoft Office.

Interlibrary Loan

The New Hampshire State Library has resumed interlibrary loan services. If you would like to borrow a title that our library does not have in our collection, please give us a call so we can request it from another library.

In October, the Library Board of Trustees approved two new databases to add to our ever-growing collection of electronic resources:

NewsBank

NewsBank America's News: 2021 Edition is a powerful online resource that empowers libraries to provide relevant information to a wide variety of patrons. With current content and deep archives from more than 3,650 U.S. news sources, it is useful for exploring a diverse range of popular topics including business, health, politics, careers, entrepreneurship and much more. *NewsBank America's News: 2021 Edition* features national, regional and local news content that delivers multiple perspectives on practically any issue, person or event across the country. It is the most comprehensive domestic news resource available. Some newspapers in the collection include: *Boston Herald*, *Union Leader*, *Concord Monitor*, and the *Monadnock Ledger Transcript*. Please give us a call for login information, or to help you locate a newspaper, or to find an article.

Transparent Language—Get serious about language learning

Have you always wanted to learn another language, or do you perhaps need to brush up on one you learned in college?

No more excuses...now you can. We now carry *Transparent Language* with over 100 languages to learn from the convenience of your home, in the library, or on the go. *Transparent Language* is available in the web browser or in a mobile app on any Internet-connected device—computer, tablet, or phone. Please give us a call to get started.

Holiday Craft Kits

This season the library will have free holiday craft kits for children and adults! Just stop into the library and ask for a kit and bring it home for something fun to do. The kits will be easy ornaments or décor items that you can use to decorate your home, or you can bring it back to decorate the library tree! Send us pictures of your creations or pictures of you and your kids crafting to: yatuttlelibrary@gmail.com.

February (Zoom and in-library with restrictions)

Book Discussion with Irene Buchine, author of *Celia and the Little Boy*, a mother's story about childhood depression and hope. Drawing from her personal knowledge and experience, Irene Buchine addresses the complicated crisis of mental illness in children with respect and sensitivity, offering a window into the difficulties children and their families face when coping with the impact of depression. This is a collaboration between the James A. Tuttle Library and The Grapevine.

Pandemic Survey

Since the pandemic began we have been documenting the experience. We would love as much participation as possible. When you have time, please give us a call, or go to our website for more information www.antrimnh.org/james-tuttle-library. Please check our website for programs and updated library information.

We will be closed on the following days:

Thursday & Friday, Dec. 24 & 25, Christmas Eve & Day

Thursday, Dec. 31, New Years Eve closing at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 1, New Year's Day

Monday, Jan. 18, Martin Luther King Day

Monday, Feb. 15, President's Day

Happy Holidays and best wishes for a Happy New Year. ❁



SUPPORTING OUR *Local* COMMUNITIES
Since 1831
Join the BNH Family!
Visit BankNH.com to learn more.

 **Bank of
New Hampshire**

 EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER

BankNH.com 1.800.832.0912 Member FDIC

What Happens to Trees in Antrim During the Winter?

Charles Levesque

Trees dominate the landscape in Antrim, the State of New Hampshire and the whole northeast region. The New England and New York region is the most heavily forested (by percentage of area) in the country. Maine is first and New Hampshire is second. According to the USDA Forest Service's national forest inventory data (partially updated every year), we have 4,224,559,456 standing live trees one inch in diameter (at 4.5 feet off the ground) in the Granite State. That number goes down year after year—a good thing. This means that our forest is getting bigger—that is, the size of the trees is getting bigger—and older, which has been the case since this data about the forest was first collected starting shortly after World War II.

Broadleaf deciduous trees, of course, lose their leaves in the fall to reduce water loss. Most needle-leaved trees like white pine or hemlock, known as conifers, with exceptions such as larch and bald cypress trees, retain needles year round, only losing older, damaged needles. Needles are better at retaining water than broadleaves thanks to their small surface area and waxy outer coating that limits water loss to transpiration, the evaporation of water from leaves.

So what do all our trees do in the winter? They freeze, for one thing—or partially, at least. Trees are about half water. Some species, like ash, have a little less water and others, like white pine, have more. Regardless, the water in live trees freezes during the winter. Don't worry, trees are constructed to withstand freezing. But they largely go dormant when the freeze happens. The underground parts of the tree may not completely freeze, but not a lot goes on during the winter there, either.

Michael Snyder, a forester and Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, described what our trees do to survive the winter in the December 28, 2012 edition of *Northern Woodlands*:

To survive winter cold, trees begin preparations in late summer as day length shortens. Cold acclimation occurs gradually and includes a number of physiological changes in leaves, stems, and roots. And while fall color seems to get all the attention, it's what trees do later in autumn

that is the most stunning, and harder to see.

Some of these later changes really do seem to border on magic, and while some of the details remain a mystery to science, general mechanisms have been explained. Paul Schaberg, a research plant physiologist with the USDA Forest Service's Aiken Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Burlington, Vermont, has led many investigations of cold tolerance in trees, particularly in the foliage of montane spruce and fir in New England.

Schaberg's work suggests three basic ways in which living tree cells prevent freezing. One is to change their membranes during cold acclimation so that the membranes become more pliable; this allows water to migrate out of the cells and into the spaces between the cells. The relocated water exerts pressure against the cell walls, but this pressure is offset as cells shrink and occupy less space.

The second way a tree staves off freezing is to sweeten the fluids within the living cells. Come autumn, a tree converts starch to sugars, which act as something of an antifreeze. The cellular fluid within the living cells becomes concentrated with these natural sugars, which lowers the freezing point inside the cells, while the sugar-free water between the cells is allowed to freeze. Because the cell membranes are more pliable in winter, they're squeezed but not punctured by the expanding ice crystals.

The third coping mechanism...involves what Schaberg describes as a "glass phase"—between a liquid and solid phase—where the liquid cell contents become so viscous that they appear to be solid, a kind of "molecular suspended animation" that mimics the way silica remains liquid as it is supercooled into glass. This third mechanism is triggered by the progressive cellular dehydration that results from the first two mechanisms and allows the supercooled contents of the tree's cells to avoid crystallizing.

All three cellular mechanisms are intended to keep living cells from freezing. That's the key for the tree; don't allow living cells to freeze.

A tree doesn't have to keep all of its cells from freezing, just the living ones. This is significant, since much of a tree's living trunk is made up of cells that are dead (though it's strange to think of these cells as dead, because they're still involved in functions, such as sap flow, that keep the tree alive). Dead cells can and do freeze, but even the lowest temperature can't kill an already dead cell. And that's the magic: while the overwhelming majority of a tree's above-ground cells do indeed freeze

 — continued on page 16

CUTTER

Flooring, Bedding & Blinds

Terry Cutter, owner

www.CutterFlooring.com

24 Main Street
Antrim, NH
(603) 588-3711

8 Bridge St.
Henniker, NH
(603) 828-8779

Antrim Community Board

Diane Kendall

Greetings. I hope you are faring well in a year like no other. I would like to share a little bit about my family and why we chose Antrim as our family home, and share some exciting information about the formation of an Antrim Community Services and Care Planning Board, or Antrim Community Board.

On June 29, 1996, my husband, John, and I, by chance and luck, spent our honeymoon night at The Maplehurst. The inn was lively, packed with revelers singing along with a local on the piano. As a newly married couple we were welcomed with exuberance and a bottle of champagne. After honeymooning in Ireland, we returned to start our life in Mont Vernon. On another trip back to Antrim we visited the Wool Room, which was so reminiscent of the lovely cottage shops we visited in Ireland. In 1998, John stumbled upon the Strawberry Festival while driving our colicky newborn around. He came home and excitedly said, “we should find a house in Antrim—it’s so quaint and they have awesome community spirit.” In August of 1998, with our 10-month-old daughter, we moved into the old farmhouse on Elm Ave. I will never forget the warmth we received from our neighbors. One moment particularly stands out. Kristen Vance stopped by with a pot of soup to introduce herself and tell me about The Grapevine. At The Grapevine, I made lifelong friends, received parenting support, and began a journey as a member of a community.

A lot has happened in Antrim in the years since 1998. Our family of three grew to five, along with a mother-in-law and a haphazard menagerie of pets and farm animals. We have been engaged in many different community boards, committees, events, fundraisers, parades, recreation programs, and library and school functions. We have truly seen the best this community has to offer.

We have seen hundreds of residents open their hearts and wallets for others to help with expenses from illness and loss from tragic accidents or fires. We have tearfully held hands at funerals and memorials to support families who have lost loved ones. After 9/11 we came together in solace to mourn with our country, and every Memorial Day we line the streets and stand in somber remembrance of our veterans and see hope in boys and girls marching with pride. Annual town meeting, the foundation of local democracy, overflowed the gymnasium with people who at times vigorously debated contested issues and then shared a beer and a laugh at the Rynborn.

We also shared many joyous occasions. Antrim Home and Harvest Festival became the home of a world-recognized skateboard competition. Volunteers planted thousands

of daffodils and took care of planters and parks. Tenney Farm, Edmunds Hardware, Wayno’s Market, and Rick and Diane’s Pizzeria contributed immeasurable support to youth sports, events and employment. Every summer we counted on weekly concerts in Memorial Park, and the Antrim Players entertained us with top-notch live theatre.

We now see a notable difference in our community. People seem less engaged, and the volunteers are weary. About a year ago a person under the influence crashed his vehicle in the street across from our house and then tried to break into our home. A childhood friend of our son allegedly carried out an unspeakable act of violence in his own home. Our town has lost talented and beautiful children, fathers, teachers, sons and daughters to suicide. While crime in Antrim is relatively low, we are not immune to the complex impact of mental illness, drug addiction, alcohol abuse and technology-assisted exploitation. Outward signs of distress are properties fallen into disrepair or displaying symptoms of hoarding disease. We are not strangers. We are neighbors, classmates, colleagues, customers, friends and family. Sometimes, the happy days of strawberry shortcakes, piano music at the inn, and blues music from Luther “Guitar” Johnson wafting up Main Street seem like a distant memory of days gone by.

The Antrim Community Board Creates its Master Plan by Mobilizing our Hometown Assets

Kristen McCormick

Step 1—Discover and inventory Antrim’s wealth of community resources and assets. Work to discover the single-most important assets—the skills, gifts, interests, hopes, connections, and willingness to share of everyone in town—has already begun. So we can know our own capacity to solve our own problems, the ACB will make sure the Antrim Assets and Interests Bank is up and running before any decisions are made on which community issues to tackle. In short, the development of all of the projects making up the ACB’s Master Plan both start with and build on our community assets and interests.

Step 2—Guide development of the projects that make up its Master Plan. These projects will be developed by groups of people in town—brought together by the ACB using the Assets and Interests Bank—who have common interests, hopes for our town, and have expressed a willingness and enthusiasm for developing specific projects to tackle specific issues. We are blessed with a town where people do care—and want to solve the problems we face and make a better hometown for everybody. This means there is no question that these groups will develop projects to solve our most important problems and take advantage of all kinds of opportunities to improve our community life.

Step 3—Determine which projects will comprise the Master Plan. The end result is an ACB Master Plan for improving our community life and social well-being, created by groups of our fellow citizens with diverse interests and gifts, and that will tap the ACB Assets and Interests Bank to provide the “people power” necessary to carry out the Master Plan projects.

Yet, there is still so much to celebrate as our town government and administration has thoughtful, skilled, and capable people in every position. Our public safety, roads and water departments demonstrate professionalism and integrity. Our recreation and library directors continue to be creative

 — continued on page 14

and innovative with programming throughout COVID restrictions. The Grapevine, Teen Center, Senior Center, Food Pantry, Lions Club, Grange, churches and more provide essential social, emotional and economic services.

While Antrim’s tradition of neighbor helping neighbor is welcome and a key source of our strength as a community today, its reliability and strength in the new century of work life is diminished. We recognize that the access, availability, and adequacy of health and human services are as essential to any community as safe roads and bridges. Like planning boards are to land use, community boards are to our health and well-being, and to our connections to each other.

Community boards adopted in accordance with NH RSA 678 are appointed by select boards and accountable to the residents. Members are tasked with the serious business of planning for the community service needs of all residents to enhance **public health, prosperity, quality of life, safety and general welfare**. In doing so the board “shall assess, evaluate, and prioritize community service needs and resources. They shall plan, recommend, and report on the development of local plans, projects, support systems, initiatives and other mechanisms to make improvements to community services. They will prepare, maintain and update a 5-year Community Services Master Plan and produce an annual state-of-the-community report, which will include a community well-being index.”

The Antrim Community Board Steering Committee is working to collect information to assist with the adoption of the board, the pre-development of the Community Services Master Plan, and community asset database. Our goal is to pass a 2021 warrant article adopting the provisions of RSA 678 and establishing the first-in-the-state Community Services and Care Planning Board. You can help by completing the survey found on the town website—just click on “Committees,” then on “Antrim Community Board” to find “Take Survey Here” at top left. You can email us at AntrimCommunityBoard@gmail.com for more information or if you’d like to join in a one-hour information session on Zoom. ✨

Pandemic Ponderings of the Antrim Baptist Church

Pastors Charlie and Cherryl Boucher

Antrim Baptist finds itself in these difficult days of COVID-19, along with all of you, and this has drastically changed the comings and goings of the church, as it has affected so much in society. But we keep forging ahead.

The Food Pantry has been operating with a drive-through operation, which has gone very well. Thank you to all area folk for their kindness in giving food and monetary gifts. Serving those in need is an important outreach to the Antrim and Bennington communities. Our Deacons are ever so faithful and do an amazing job picking up food at The NH Food Bank, unloading and sorting food and serving folk each Saturday from 10 a.m.–noon.

We stopped worshipping in the church building on Sunday, March 15. We began to send out “Services” each Sunday via email, with parts of the worship filmed. These videos all can be found on *YouTube*, if you search “Antrim Baptist Church.”

On Sunday, September 27, we came back to worshipping in the church building and presently continue to do so, although in a very different way than we were used to doing. Every other pew is blocked off. People are asked to wear masks in coming and going, and when singing. The choir doesn’t sing. We don’t have our Coffee Hour, which is always treasured by one and all. Sunday School, also, is not the same, being held in Fellowship Hall with two children at each six-foot round table, and, of course, with masks on. Yes, Sunday morning is far from what was “normal,” yet it is all good, and there is truly a sense of peace and a joy as we come together on Sunday mornings.

Presently, a Virtual Christmas Pageant is in the process of coming together and being filmed. It will be on *YouTube* beginning on Sunday, December 20. This is, indeed, a very unique way of presenting the birth of Christ, but the same message will go forth; and to many more than if it were done in a traditional manner at the church. We hope you get a chance to watch it.

We would never have imagined all that has gone on in the life and work of Antrim Baptist over the last eight months. It hasn’t been easy; yet the Church Body has great faith and looks for the good, seeing overflowing blessings during these trying times we are in. We have also had a keener and deeper sense of the importance of thinking outside of oneself to do for others; it truly brings great joy! And once more, ironically, in our distance from one another, we have been drawn closer together and appreciate one another all the more.

How much longer will all this transpire? We don’t know, but we continue to strive onward with strength, assurance and hope to get through it. And we know that because of these difficult days, we will never be the same, as individuals and as a Church Body. We are truly thankful! ✨

2020 Maple Syrup for sale



We have lots of 2020 maple syrup in our **Old Pound Road Sugar House**. Just call and we will meet you at the sugarhouse. We also sell **maple candy and maple cream**.

Special holiday sale for repeat customers

Note: *Old Pound Road Firewood* is taking orders for 2021 delivery.

Old Pound Road Sugar House and Firewood

Divisions of: Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC
www.inrslc.com

37 Old Pound Road
Antrim, NH 03440
Charles Levesque
levesque@inrslc.com
603-588-3272



Fond Farewell to the Loons

Joan Gorga

Many of us have thoroughly enjoyed having front-row seats to observe loon brooding behavior on Gregg Lake this year. I, for one, had only rarely encountered loon families in the past, although I suspect the Gregg Lake adult loons know me by sight. One of the best sources of information about loons comes from New Hampshire's own Loon Preservation Committee, which, after collecting information on New Hampshire's loons since 1975, has about the most complete loon data set in the world. But even the Loon Preservation Committee says they have more to learn.

Gregg Lake's two chicks were first spotted off the nest on June 11. Even in those first few days, one chick could be seen to be a little more alert, a little more active and a little more aggressive about getting fed. It is quite possible that this chick hatched first, up to a day ahead of the other one, and thus was just a little more advanced. The adult loons were incredibly dedicated to feeding and protecting their youngsters. Although the more aggressive chick frequently got the first few fish, the adults were often seen feeding both chicks until they refused to eat any more. Only after both chicks refused an offered fish would an adult gobble it down.

It was fun to sit quietly in a kayak or on shore and listen to the low chatter among the loons, which usually consisted

of short hoots. It was even more fun to be out swimming and have the loon family swim over for a visit. They seemed to know who wasn't a threat. The adults and chicks often kept up a continuous quiet conversation. When the chicks



Photo by Frank Gorga

were hungry, they let the adults know. When the adults detected a threat, be it motorboat or eagle, they let the chicks know in no uncertain terms, letting out wails and yodels that could be heard far away. We sometimes wondered if the loud distress calls were as much to let an eagle know that it had been spotted as to warn the chicks to take cover. Apparently, eagles are not always the victor in battles with loons.

Towards the end of the summer one of the juveniles—no longer “chicks,” being as big as the adults and having acquired their juvenile plumage—began practicing making the classic loon wail. It sounded downright pathetic at first—more like a sick rooster—but it did make progress over the course of a couple of weeks. It began flapping its wings, following demonstrations by the adults. It also began moving away from the rest of the family and feeding on its own. The other juvenile watched, but showed no inclination to call, fly or feed itself, and continued to beg to be fed by the adults.

In mid-September, one of the adults and the independent juvenile, by then about three months old, left the lake, presumably heading east to the ocean. The adult will likely be back next spring, but the juvenile will spend several years at sea. The remaining adult continued to feed the second juvenile and tried to convince it to flap its wings. The juvenile apparently was still having nothing to do with trying to fly and just looked at the adult. (Some of us can remember getting that kind of a look from a teenager.) After a few more weeks, the juvenile did begin to test out wails, and we were treated to the sick rooster stage for a second time, until it, too, began to sound more like the real thing. In late October, the adult was seen still feeding the whiny, begging juvenile, but a few days later, the adult left the lake and the juvenile was on its own. As of this writing in mid-November, the five-month-old juvenile seems fine—it's feeding on its own, making full-fledged wails and working on flying, having

✍️ — continued on page 20

SCOTT-FARRAR IS HOME

SCOTT-FARRAR
AT PETERBOROUGH

NOW AVAILABLE
Assisting Living
Apartments

What is home? At Scott-Farrar home is not worrying about plowing the driveway, shoveling walkways, and other winter chores. Home is having friendly staff from our housekeeping team stop by to tidy up your apartment. Home is selecting a good book from our library and enjoying the calm atmosphere as you read.

SCOTT-FARRAR.COM

SCHEDULE A TOUR WITH TOBY
TODAY 603-924-3691

NON-PROFIT 501(C) CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

INDEPENDENT LIVING, ASSISTED LIVING, AND MEMORY CARE

regularly when exposed to subfreezing temperatures, the small percentage of living ones don't. There are living cells in the trunk that remain unfrozen even though they are right next to—and at the same temperature as—dead cells that are frozen solid.

While trees have evolved amazing strategies for withstanding the winter cold, sometimes it gets so cold that trees can explode. Yes, you read that right. During spells of extreme cold or when trees haven't had time to acclimate, the life-sustaining sap inside a tree can begin to freeze. Sap contains water so it expands when frozen, putting pressure on the bark, which can break and create an explosion. There are numerous historic and current observations of trees exploding due to extreme cold. And you sometimes hear small versions of this when you walk through the woods on a quiet really cold winter day.

Trees have other mechanisms to protect them in the winter. Bark is extremely important in protecting the tree in both summer and winter, although it doesn't prevent it from freezing as we have described above. So when you are cold and complaining about the winter, just think about what trees have to go through to survive!

Charlie Levesque, a NH licensed forester and natural resource consultant, can be reached at 603-588-3272 or levesque@inrslc.com.

Thanks to *Northern Woodlands* magazine and author Michael Snyder for permission to reprint parts of his article here. The article also comes from Michael Snyder's book *Woods Whys, An Exploration of Forests and Forestry*, published in 2019 by Bondcliff Books (a NH company!) and available at local bookstores and on Amazon. ❄️



Trees make starch and sugars during the growing season as the leaves conduct photosynthesis—taking carbon dioxide from the air, capturing sunlight in its chlorophyll, using water from the ground and giving off oxygen. In the fall, some of the starch is converted to sugars, which act like an antifreeze to protect living cells from ice damage. In the late winter in a maple tree, the sugary water that had been in a viscous glass-like phase during the cold winter starts to become liquid as the temperatures warm, allowing us to collect some of it for making maple products. Dead wood cells and the spaces in between provide long microscopic straws that allow the sap to flow for maple sugaring season.

— LIMRIK WEBSITE —
www.ANTRIMLIMRIK.org



MON—FRI 8 am to 5:30 pm www.tylerssmallengine.com
SAT 9 am to 1 pm

TYLER'S SMALL ENGINE
SALES & SERVICE
Route 202, Antrim, NH 03440
588-6200

Ariens **DR** POWER EQUIPMENT
SCAG **STIHL** **GENERAC**
POWER EQUIPMENT

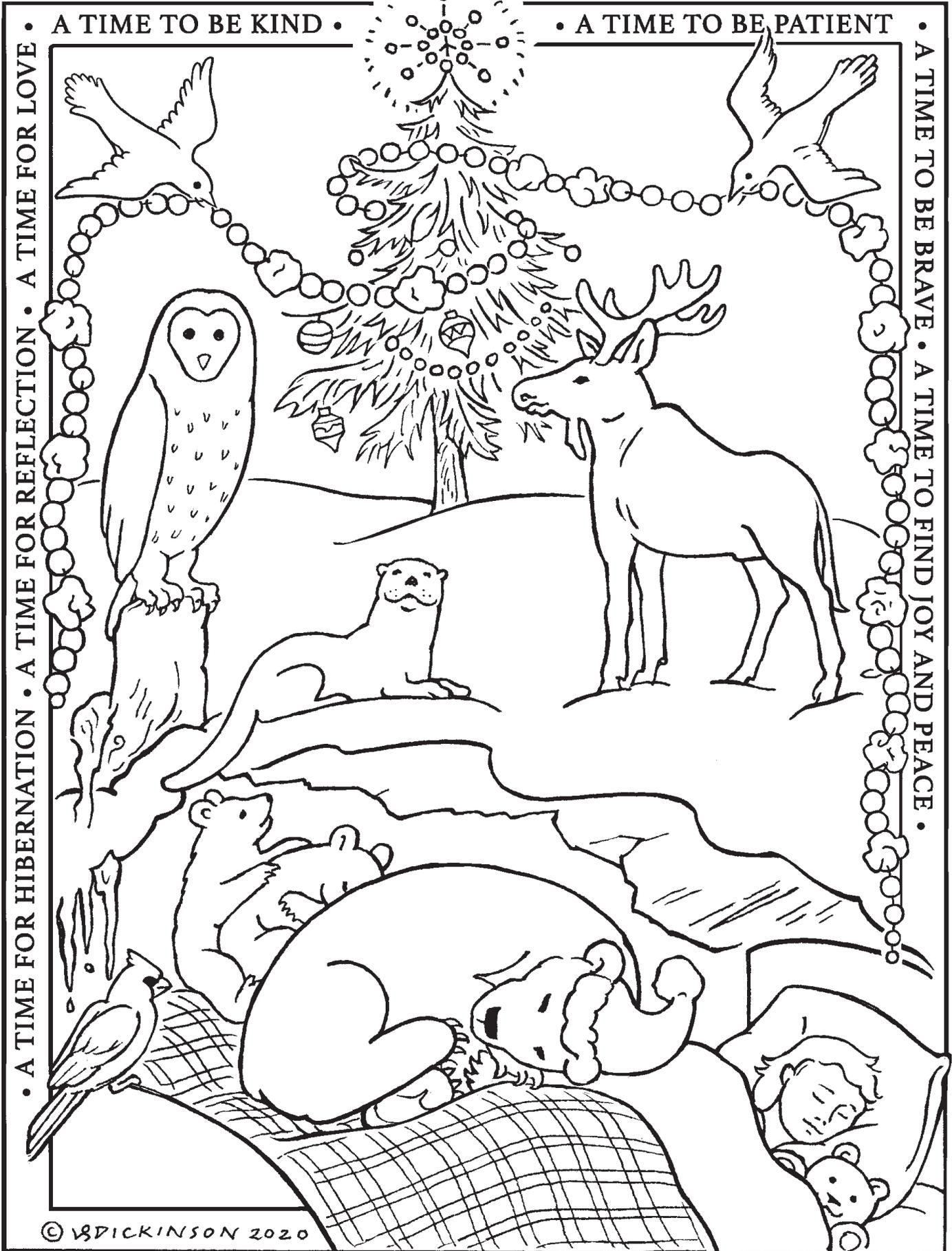
TORO **Wheel Horse** **TIMBER WOLF** **Husqvarna**

BELLOWS-NICHOLS INSURANCE
Your road to Coverage

Wishes you and yours a very ...
Merry Christmas
And a New Year filled with Peace and Joy!

bellowsnichols.com
janderson@bellowsnichols.com
26 Main Street, Antrim, NH
603-588-3600

New Ipswich Hancock Peterborough Jaffrey
878-4860 525-3342 924-7155 532-5600



Color, if you wish.

Antrim Water and Sewer Commission Updates

Melissa Lombard, Chair

The commissioners wanted to provide an update to the community on some of our recent activities. Our primary focus this year has been applying for state and federal grant and loan opportunities in order to assist in funding the connection of our new well to the water system, build a well house, and drill a new horizontal water transmission line under the Contoocook River. In 2019 we were not successful with our loan and grant applications, where success depends in part on the priorities and sizes of other projects around the state that also request funding. Our luck turned for the better in 2020. We were successful with our pre-application to the drinking water state revolving fund in requesting the ability to borrow up to approximately 2.5 million dollars. Our pre-application made the funding priority list, which allows us to move forward in the application process and submit a final application in May 2021. This funding mechanism would provide us with a low interest loan and the possibility of loan forgiveness (probably 10%) based on our median household income and town water rates, among other things. We are moving forward with preparing the documents for the final application, and part of that includes town approval for authority to borrow. Therefore, you will see a town warrant article in March 2021 related to this project.

In September 2020, we applied for a grant of approximately \$500,000 from the New Hampshire Drinking Water Groundwater Trust Fund. Our project was recommended for funding by a sub-committee; however, the full committee must vote on the final projects to receive funding, and we anticipate a final decision in December 2020. In addition, we have been in discussions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Division about applying for loan and grant funds through their program. This is the same program that helped fund the recent work on Highland Avenue and Pleasant Street. That application is due in December 2020. The bottom line is that we have made some great progress towards receiving grants and loans to complete this large project.

We do not yet know the final mix of how this project will be funded and how much we will have to borrow versus how

much will be provided to us in grants. We do anticipate that our warrant article will ask for a contribution from town taxpayers to our debt service from loans, as has been done in the past on large district infrastructure projects. The expense of this project is too high for the water district to absorb through water rates alone, although we do anticipate that water rates will continue to increase in the coming years to help pay for this project. Town taxpayers who are not on town water may wonder why they are being asked to contribute to this project. Completion of this project will allow us to provide high quality water to the town buildings, schools and businesses in the downtown area. Having town water increases the town's property values and is attractive for economic development. The town water lines also provide water to the fire hydrants for fire suppression. There are many economic, social and environmental benefits of having a town water supply.

We have also been exploring areas where we can reduce our expenses and went through an energy audit provided by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and Eversource Energy. The audit provided several suggestions to reduce our energy consumption and expenses, some of which require an upfront investment. We plan to apply for grants in the summer of 2021 to help cover some of those upfront expenses with an anticipated return on investment of less than two years. ❁

GET A RIDE!



CVTC provides "no-fee" transportation to non-emergency medical and support services through our Volunteer Driver Program. Monadnock region residents who lack access to transportation due to age, disability or other limiting circumstances are encouraged to contact us.

1-877-428-2882, ext. 5
www.cvtc-nh.org

Seasons Greetings



Four Seasons Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Janet and Paul

wish you the happiest of the Holiday Season & the best for the New Year!

❁ ❁ ❁

We're looking forward to helping you with your 2021 Real Estate goals.



Janet McEwen
C: 603.582.6152 | D: 603.547.9233
janet.mcewen@fourseasonssir.com

Paul Boulé
C: 603.620.0272 | D: 603.547.9233
paul.boule@fourseasonssir.com

42 GROVE STREET | PETERBOROUGH, NH 03485 | O: 603.924.3321
FourSeasonsSIR.com | Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

When Antrim's Sheep Outnumbered Humans More Than 3:1

George Caughey

It's hard to appreciate now—because it requires imagining our hills stripped of their heavy cloak of trees—but Antrim once was thoroughly pastured and heavily invested in sheep. Most of these animals were descendants of Spanish Merinos bred for wool rather than mutton. For a time in the early to mid 19th century, this prized variety was a pillar of the local economy, as well as that of nearby hill country in New Hampshire and Vermont, creating substantial, if precarious and short-lived, wealth and prosperity. For obvious reasons, Merino wool also helped drive development of New England's once-mighty textile industry. Indeed, sheep farming was important enough that it can be assigned its own era, bridging Antrim's colonial and early post-colonial economy (which consisted mainly of subsistence agriculture practiced on upland soils peppered with annual crops of rocks and challenged by declining fertility) with the town's later transformation into a manufacturing and export economy capitalizing on energy provided by the town's rivers and brooks.

A Legacy in Stone Walls

The Merino era lasted marginally longer than one human generation and ended more than a century and a half ago. However, it left an enduring legacy most evident in the form of Antrim's hundred-plus miles of stone walls now mainly framing woodlots rather than pastures. Although you might initially suppose that most of these walls were constructed by Antrim's first farming families, this almost certainly is not the case. Rather, the first walls likely were constructed of wooden split rails and stumps, given that trees were everywhere and were being felled to create cropland, hayfields and pasture. As documented in works such as Susan Allport's *Sermons in Stone* and Tom Wessels's *Reading the Forested Landscape*, the heyday of stone wall-building here and in similar New England hill towns was the 1820s to 1840s, necessitated by a need to keep greatly increased numbers of sheep in pastures and out of cropland, combined with increasing scarcity of wooden fence-building materials due to deforestation and grazing. Stone walls were time-consuming and expensive to build, but raising sheep was profitable and often worth the investment. For many types and personalities of sheep, the stone walls built by our forebears in Antrim were not high enough to contain the animals but needed to be topped with brush or wooden rails. Later, as so often found intertwined and rusting amid our old stone walls, barbed wire ably served this purpose, although by the time wire fencing became available, the era of large-scale sheep-raising in New England was over.

Merino Mania

The rise of Merino Sheep in our region was meteoric. Indeed, the phenomenon had classic features of boom-and-bust. The historical labels "Sheep Craze" and "Merino Mania" were apt. The price of a prime Merino ram was at times strato-

spheric (thousands of dollars), driven up by speculators and others determined to pursue a path to ovine riches. At other times, prices plummeted with fluctuations in tariffs and other factors affecting supply, demand and investor enthusiasm. It hastened the abandonment of less productive hill farms, as wealthier landowners and groups of investors bought adjoining farms to use the pastures for forage and barns for sheepfolds, letting the houses fall to ruin. Antrim's own settlers had tended sheep before, of course, but generally in small flocks of "native" sheep to supply their own wool and mutton. As documented in the Whiton and Cochrane histories of Antrim, the earliest European settlers also had to contend with predators, including wolves, but these were long gone by the 19th century and no longer an impediment to raising sheep at scale. The first substantial numbers of Merino sheep were imported into the young United States in ~1810 by William Jarvis, who was based in Portugal, having been appointed as consul for Lisbon by Thomas Jefferson. Jarvis took advantage of chaos in Spain during the Napoleonic Wars. Before then, Spaniards were extremely protective of their flocks: in some areas the export of a living Merino was a crime punishable by death. As reported by R. R. Bowker in a history of the wool industry published in Harper's New Monthly magazine in 1890, there had been earlier U.S. imports of Merinos, including a smuggled set of ram and ewes, although the recipient mistook their purpose and ate them! Upon returning to the U.S., Jarvis founded a Merino sheep farm in Weathersfield, Vermont, along the Connecticut River. From this farm, which was dedicated to scientific livestock production, he bred, sold and distributed Merino sheep. In the process, he and other breeders seeded the rapid rise in Merino populations in the region and succeeded over ensuing decades in adapting the breed to the New England climate and greatly increasing the yield of wool per shearing.

Sheep Traffic on Antrim's Turnpike

The Jarvis farm in Weathersfield immediately bordered Claremont, New Hampshire, which, perhaps not coincidently

— continued on page 21



Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC

We provide full forestry services. Let us come to your Antrim woodlot and do a free site visit to discuss your forestry options.

Charles Levesque NH Licensed Forester #281
Call 603-588-3272 or e-mail levesque@inrslc.com

www.inrslc.com

achieved about ten feet in the air so far, and increasing daily.

I reached out to the Loon Preservation Committee to ask if this very different development pace for two loon chicks was normal. Was the slower-developing chick likely born second and therefore fed after the more aggressive first-born over the whole summer so it developed more slowly? Was it different personalities? Or was there likely something genetically or developmentally abnormal about the second chick?

John Cooley, Senior Biologist at the Loon Preservation Committee, replied that it is indeed common for two loon chicks to develop at different paces, with the most common cause being a dominance hierarchy that puts the sub-dominant chick at a disadvantage and thus slows its growth. John said the rivalry can be moderate, as we observed, with both chicks eventually getting fed in turn, and both surviving. He said the late-season begging behavior might have nothing to do with the chick hierarchy—it isn't uncommon to see a "teenage" juvenile, months old, still begging for food and being fed by the adults, even when it is likely capable of foraging on its own. (Are there parallels with human behavior here, too?) John suggested as another possible explanation that the more independent juvenile that left the lake first was actually the sub-dominant chick—excluded to some extent all along and more likely to be off on its own and then leave the lake at an earlier date, with the dominant sibling still sticking around, demanding food.

We won't ever truly know the reasons for the different developmental rates and behaviors of our two loon chicks, but we've added our observations to the LPC's repository of loon brooding behaviors on New Hampshire lakes. And we hope our resident loon teenager manages to take off before the lake freezes over.

Fare thee well, loon family, and thanks for the summer viewing! ❁



Photo by Frank Gorga

WILLIAM BRYK

Justice of the Peace and Notary Public

Marriage ceremonies performed

Signatures witnessed

444 Clinton Road

Antrim, NH 03440-3510

Telephone: (603) 588-2168

Greetings from Antrim Recreation!

Celeste Lunetta, Director

I write this season with genuine gratitude for the efforts put forth by people in our community to stay engaged, kind and active during these past few months. Fall 2020 was incredibly challenging for so many, and I am encouraged and inspired by people's constant endurance in the face of needing to recalculate so frequently. Hang in there, my friends.

Antrim Recreation fall activities included stewardship of our well-used outdoor recreation parks, especially Shea Field, Memorial Park (especially the skatepark), and Gregg Lake Beach. The town is grateful to Michael Redmond, newly minted Eagle Scout, for his completion of the Gaga Ball Pit at Memorial Park. This Eagle Scout project is sure to bring a lot of family and friend group memories. Gaga Ball is a variant of dodgeball, and is played in a Gaga Ball Pit. Players dodge, strike, run and jump, with the goal to be the last person standing. Players strike the ball with their hands, and if the ball hits a player on or below the knees, they are eliminated from that match. It's a fast and fun game. Thank you, Michael!

The Antrim Parks and Recreation Commission has a few great projects on the docket for 2021 and beyond. The commission could use one or two new members. The group meets on the second Thursday of each month, and is responsible for steering the Parks and Recreation programming, facilities and goals. The members are the advocates and stewards of our Parks and Recreation programs and facilities. Meetings are typically 90 minutes long, and we have some great ideas right now. If you would consider serving the town in this capacity, please contact Celeste at Antrim Recreation, 588-3121, or leave us a message at Antrim Town Hall, 588-6785. Additionally, you can confer with any of our three current members: Isaac Lombard, Joan Gorga and Tim Morehouse.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

We are determined to run programs as safely as possible. We constantly reevaluate several factors to meet that commitment. Our goal is to contribute to the community by providing safe facilities and opportunities. For the most current program information, look to the town website, www.antrimnh.org, and also follow us on Facebook and watch the community bulletin board at the Antrim Town Hall. All programs require that you contact the instructor or the Recreation Department before you start them, and all programs are currently following extensive COVID-safe guidelines, including screening at the entrance and wearing a mask for all or part of an activity. Signing a waiver is also required.

Zumba Strong and Zumba with Lisa: Mondays at Antrim Town Gym, 5:30

Yoga with Jeanine: Tuesdays at Town Hall, 6:00

Pound Exercise with Lisa: Wednesdays at Antrim Town Gym, 5:30

 — continued on page 24

tally, was the western terminus of the 2nd New Hampshire turnpike, which was a toll road completed in 1801, from Amherst, New Hampshire, through Antrim to Claremont. For more than a generation, it was a major conduit for people and market commodities between Boston and Vermont (and Canada), traversed by stages, teamster-driven wagons, and droves of livestock. Due to construction of other roads, its profitability eventually declined, and, after 25–30 years, it ceased to be a toll road manned by toll-keepers at lockable gates spaced about eight miles apart. Then, as now, it passed through east Antrim, crossing the Contoocook and North Branch rivers. Large numbers of sheep, including members of Antrim's own flocks, presumably, headed to markets near Boston by this route. Needless to say, the market access it afforded undoubtedly helped to fuel the sheep sector of the region's economy.

Counting Sheep

Just how many sheep are we talking about? In the sheep census compiled by Benton and Barry in 1836, which corresponds roughly to the peak of Merino sheep-raising in New England, Antrim had 4,109 sheep. This was 3rd highest among thirty towns surveyed in Hillsborough County, and was more than in abutting towns of Windsor, Hillsborough, Deering, Greenfield, and Hancock. It also amounted to nearly 10% of the 45,511 sheep in the whole county. So, Antrim had exceptionally robust numbers. However, immediately to the north and west, in Cheshire County, the count managed to top Antrim's in hillier Nelson and Stoddard, with 6,013 and 5,609 sheep, respectively. Although the purview of the 1836 sheep census did not include counting *Homo sapiens*, we can estimate that the human population of Antrim at that time was between 1,309 and 1,225, as recorded in the Cochrane history of Antrim for the censuses of 1830 and 1840, respectively. Therefore, 184 years ago, Antrim had more than three times as many sheep as people. There were other varieties of livestock of course, though none could have been nearly as numerous as sheep. It is perhaps worth noting that Antrim's human population, through death and emigration, posted a steady half-century decline from 1820 onward, even as sheep numbers increased. Antrim reached a human nadir of 904 in 1870, before increasing again as the town shed its pastoral economy, including sheep, in the face of national and international competition, and hit its stride as a mill town.

The Sheep Decline

Today, few sheep are left in Antrim. Although I'm not sure now who's out there counting sheep, other than those still sleepless over the recent election, there may be more

horses, cows, or even alpacas than sheep. Historians assign multiple reasons for the bursting of the sheep bubble in our region. One of these certainly was increased competition from the Midwest and, eventually, the Southwest and true West. Opening the Erie Canal played a role by providing cheaper access of goods to markets and facilitating movement of animals. In this connection, it may be considered ironic that Antrim's Clinton Village is named after New York City mayor and New York State governor DeWitt Clinton, who was widely admired for championing and completing the Erie Canal. In addition to the domestic competition, there was rising competition from large-scale foreign ranchers, such as in Australia and New Zealand, at roughly the same time that tariffs protecting the New England wool trade were being relaxed. Other factors may have included the rise of a cotton-based textile industry and degradation of pasture quality in New England hill country, which tended to have soils more sensitive to overgrazing than midwestern pastures. How far has the sheep industry fallen? According to USDA statistics from 2017, the state of New Hampshire had only 8,213 sheep and lambs *total*, 1,041 of which were in Hillsborough County. In other words, our Antrim of 1836—184 years ago—had more than half as many sheep as in the entire state of latter-day New Hampshire, and four times as many sheep as are now in the entire county. Sheep-raising is by no means dead in the region, though it is more likely to be a boutique business, with most New Hampshire sheep being scattered in independent flocks of 1 to 24 animals, in marked contrast to mega-ranching operations of the American West or Down Under. Nowadays in Antrim, while following a stone wall in the woods, you may not see anything but a chipmunk, but you can bet that many sheep, likely descendants of Spanish Merinos, preceded you on your path. ✨



Photograph, black and white, pre-1895, photographer unknown, "Pure American Vermont Merino stud ewe." Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences (Sydney) accessed 10 November 2020, <<https://ma.as/229559>.

sheep as in the entire state of latter-day New Hampshire, and four times as many sheep as are now in the entire county. Sheep-raising is by no means dead in the region, though it is more likely to be a boutique business, with most New Hampshire sheep being scattered in independent flocks of 1 to 24 animals, in marked contrast to mega-ranching operations of the American West or Down Under. Nowadays in Antrim, while following a stone wall in the woods, you may not see anything but a chipmunk, but you can bet that many sheep, likely descendants of Spanish Merinos, preceded you on your path. ✨

KNAPTON
INSURANCE
READE & WOODS

A MEMBER OF THE DAVIS AND TOWLE GROUP

603/464-3422 ♦ FAX 603/464-4066
P.O. BOX 2250 ♦ HILLSBORO ♦ NH 03244

HOME AUTO
BUSINESS
LIFE HEALTH

www.knaptoninsurance.com

Caleb and Webster, Superheroes

THE SEA ADVENTURES

Susan Ellsworth

One sunny, warm July morning Dad and Grandpa took Caleb and Webster on their first fishing trip on a boat. Caleb was very excited. Webster was happy to be on the boat with all its new and wonderful smells. Caleb laughed and told Dad that Webster's superhero nose was busy at work trying to figure out what was going to happen today. Then they all laughed.

When the boat was far enough offshore the captain stopped the engine, and it was time to bait up and drop in their lines to fish. Caleb was eager to catch his first fish. He had the first line in the water. Webster sat right at his side waiting to see what happened next.

Suddenly Caleb's pole began to bounce and bend like it does when you have a fish on the line. Dad told Caleb he had a fish, and Caleb slowly reeled in his line towards the boat. There was a big splash where Caleb's line touched the water.

"It's a nice one," the captain said.

"It's my first fish!" Caleb cried.

"It's a flounder," said Grandpa as he grabbed a net to secure the fish in case it fell off the hook. Dad helped Caleb lift the heavy fish onto the boat. It weighed about three pounds. Webster was right there in case they needed help. Dad and Grandpa took a picture of Caleb and the fish and sent it to Mom and Grandma.

Webster was very curious, so he went to smell the fish. When the fish suddenly wiggled Webster jumped in surprise. They all laughed.

It was the first fish of the day, so it was an automatic prize-winner. Dad and Grandpa were excited for Caleb to win first fish of the day plus his first fish on a boat.

As the hours passed Caleb was feeling tired from fishing and all the fresh sea air. Dad told him to go below and rest and have something to drink. Webster followed him to the bunks in the cabin below.

Shortly after Caleb left, Dad snagged a sea turtle with the plastic from a soda can six-pack around its leg. The captain and Grandpa worked as a team with Dad to get the turtle to the back of the boat's platform so they wouldn't hurt it more by lifting it up over the boat railing, which was high off the water. They picked it up carefully, placed it on the platform, cut off the plastic and released it.

"It's a shame Caleb missed that," said Dad. Grandpa agreed.

Caleb and Webster were awakened by the call of a bottle-nose dolphin asking for help. They ran to the side of the boat and listened to its cries. Then they jumped in. As in the past, they transformed into superheroes—this time fins and gills appeared to help them with their mission. The dolphin guided them underwater down to a sunken ship. It was a sea-creature hospital, filled with different creatures sick or near death from eating or getting caught up in plastics. The

dolphin told them it was all caused by man's trash.

Caleb helped them by cutting off the plastic fish nets and plastic from soda can six-packs constricting arms, legs, necks and noses. Some fish that had swallowed bottles thinking they were food were sick, too. Caleb could not believe all the pain and suffering caused by people using the ocean as a trash-dumping ground. The dolphin gave them something to bring with them to show others. Caleb told him he was sorry for what was happening and told him he would teach his family, friends and others about what no one could see happening below the water's surface.

In the distance there was the sound of a boat's engine starting up. Caleb knew it was their fishing boat. It was time for them to get back before the boat left without them.

On the way out of the sunken ship hospital, Webster got caught on some kelp and other seaweed. Caleb swam over and pulled him free so he could swim back to their fishing boat. Up, up they went.

As the boat headed towards shore, Dad and Grandpa went downstairs into the cabin to check on Caleb. There, on one of the bunks, he and Webster were fast asleep.

"Caleb, Caleb, wake up! It's time to wake up, little buddy. We're on our way home. It's time to get ready to go home to our house now."

Caleb woke up and looked around not knowing what was going on. He told Dad how he and Webster had gone to help the dolphin and other sick animals on the sunken ship. Dad and Grandpa told them about their turtle rescue and said maybe he heard people on the boat talking about that and then dreamed about it.

"No," Caleb said, "it was real."

Dad and Grandpa looked at each other and said, "OK," not believing him. Then Webster jumped down off the bunk and Grandpa pulled some still-wet seaweed and kelp from his collar. Grandpa thought Webster must have been walking around on the boat and got it stuck somehow. Then cut plastic netting and other types of plastic fell to the floor from the bunk where they were sleeping. Caleb and Webster knew differently...right?! It wasn't a dream. Don't you agree? ❀

SNOW FALLING ON GRANITE

Bruce McGuffin

In the Fall in New Hampshire
we all know for damn sure
that Winter will come in the blink of an eye.

Then when snow falls on granite
this place gets cold an' it
should change the state motto to "Live, Freeze, and Die."

Where in Antrim?

Only J. Alfred correctly identified the site of the September “Where in Antrim” photo as a solar-powered sculpture created on the Gregg Lake shore by Jerry Schultz. J. Alfred won the \$25 gift certificate to Edmunds.

The names of all who correctly identify the location of this photo by December 15 will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate for Deer Meadow Homestead. Email your response to editor@antrimlimrik.org or call 588-2569. Photo by Frank Gorga. ❁



Pickleball: Sundays at 2:00 and 3:30. Masks required. Call Celeste at 588-3121 to sign up.

COMING SOON
(dates and times to be determined):

Color Guard: for middle and high school, once per week, probably alternating Thursdays and Saturdays.

Preschool and Toddler Music and Movement: Once per week, in two separate groups, we will lead a movement class for preschoolers and toddlers. This is a partner class—the child will need a partner to move with.

Art on the Go! We are moving our Art in the Park to a portable format for winter! Each week we will have a fun, new Art on the Go kit ready for pickup, for a craft project you can do at home. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more details on how and when you can get your kits!

Functional Yoga and Mobility Movement series for Active Adults, with Meghan Gould: Dates and times for this are pending, but this series will be held between December 1 and January 30.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Hidden Snowflake Hunt: In the final week of December, through the beginning of January, we will hide a dozen unique snowflakes around Antrim. Embark on a quest to find at least ten, send us pictures, and we will send you a prize!

Feeling Hoopful Hula Hoop-Making Party: December 4, 2:00-4:00 (or until supplies run out); \$5 donation per hoop gratefully accepted. This will be held at Town Gym or Memorial Park.

Gifts of Light: December 18, 2:00-5:00. Join us for candlemaking, constellation jars and stargazing. \$5 donation for craft supplies gratefully accepted. This will be at Memorial Park, Town Gym or Shea Field.

Winter Season Pop-Up Activities: Contingent upon weather and public health, we will have the following activities available for community fun. These activities will be scheduled mostly in January and February:

- Snowshoeing track and other snow field sports at Shea Field
- Snow sculpture contest
- Ice fishing and ice skating at Gregg Lake
- Snow painting
- Winter science
- Outdoor survival skills
- Movies at Antrim Town Hall (contingent upon the current public health situation—if we can have some holiday films, we will).

For updates and day-of-program information, go to our website, www.antrimnh.org, or find us on Facebook. Additionally, you can call us at 588-3121. Be sure to leave a message if we are not there! ✨

First Presbyterian Church News

Jan Howe, Pastor

Wow!! This community never ceases to amaze us with its generosity! We are so grateful to everyone who has financially supported our delayed repairs to the roof. When we received the bids for the much-needed repairs, we were overwhelmed and wondered how we could even repair the major leak, never mind the additional parts of the roof that needed to be repaired. I suppose we should not have been so surprised, as the wider community has helped us in the past with generosity. Our original plan was to repair the main roof this fall and raise additional funds in the spring for the steeple. However, as I am sure you have noticed the steeple was also repaired and that was because our appeal raised the total amount that was needed to complete both projects now. We cannot thank our members, friends and wider community enough!

This also means that we are able to start on receiving bids and raising the funds to paint the building. It is obvious that the paint is peeling, and we need to do a thorough job of scraping and painting in the spring. We believe, as so many of the area residents believe, that our building is not only an historic building, but it is also a landmark to anyone entering the center of town. Once the church is painted, we

 — continued on page 26



Professional Remodeling by
Butler Restorations LLC

We specialize in carefully updating antique homes to suit modern needs

- Antique and log home structural repair
- Screened porches, decks
- Doors and windows, garage doors replaced
- Inventive solutions to vexing problems

Mike Butler, Master carpenter

Jane Butler, Certified Aging in Place Specialist

www.ShortHillStudio.com • 588-2637



Find us on



Trotting Into Antrim

William Bryk

Summer 2020 was warm in Antrim, sometimes hot, and persistently dry. On top of the COVID-19 pandemic, by July the state government had announced a drought emergency in Hillsborough and other southern counties.

As my gym was closed, I walked for an hour or so along Clinton Road on most days, save when I had riding lessons. One change I observed was that the small streams that run from Meetinghouse Hill down to Clinton Road gradually went dry, even those I thought had a steady supply of water. By early August, the stream feeding my pond had stopped flowing and its bed had become a dry gulch. The water level in our pond was slowly sinking.

By the first week in September, New Hampshire's trees were already changing to their glorious fall colors of scarlet, orange and gold. Professional foresters said the change was earlier than usual, caused by drought-induced stress.

After weeks of shutdown of non-essential services due to the pandemic, His Excellency The Honorable Philip Scott, Governor and Captain-General of the Forces of Vermont, to use what our British cousins might call his formal style, title and attributes, determined that riding stables were essential services and permitted their reopening.

Besides teaching would-be riders at her stable at Stoddard, New Hampshire, Dorothy Crosby, my instructor, teaches at Southmowing Stables in Guilford, Vermont, a few miles west of Brattleboro. She invited me to resume my lessons there. I accepted. One bright morning, after mapping my course, I left for Guilford.

As I was nearing Keene, I saw a distant black object. It was moving. It began crossing the Franklin Pierce Highway. I came closer. It was a bear. The bear was intensely black, like Vantablack, the material recently released by British researchers that absorbs 99.965% of all light. The bear's color "...could not be described as a pigment at all—for it was beyond color; it was the blackness of the interior of a coal mine on a starless, moonless night. It was the nadir of darkness."

The fellow was running on three legs with his right foreleg held out stiffly, suggesting an injury. Happily, he crossed both lanes and ran into the trees without incident.

The journey was otherwise uneventful: I was lost only twice *en route* and once on my way home.

After my first wrong turn, I was on Brattleboro's Main Street. It is lined with handsome older commercial buildings, three to five stories tall, products of an age that valued beauty and restraint. I regained my way, crossing the West River on U.S. Route 91, and exited the freeway to High Street. After a time, I realized I'd passed the turnoff to Greenleaf Street, part of the route to the stables. I pulled into a parking lot, checked my road atlas, and returned one block to Greenleaf Street. The street sign was engulfed by foliage.

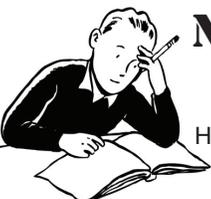
I followed Greenleaf to Hinesburg Road. Eventually, a sunny gap opened in the canopied trees. A yellow traffic sign bearing a horse appeared to my left and a dirt-and-gravel parking lot awaited my car. There was a large, rambling, handsome white house close by a succession of classic red barns and a hillside of horses: bays, roans, greys and whites, quietly ambling and grazing. Donning a face mask before pulling on my riding helmet, I asked an instructor for the nearest restroom and Dorothy's location. She answered both questions. I headed for what Ethan Allen, leader of the Green Mountain Boys, might have called the necessary.

Once back in the open air, I removed the mask and replaced the helmet. After I met Dorothy, we strolled past the white house and the last barn, and down a steep, rocky, foliage-lined path. At the end were a large paddock, a ramada-like shelter, a large water trough and a basin once filled with feed, now holding a few scattered grains. Inside the shelter stood a paint horse, its hide a pinto spotting pattern of white and darker colors. This was Merlin.

The magician's namesake was focused on eating something from the shelter's floor. I took his halter and lead rope from a hook outside the paddock and opened the gate.

I walked to him. He looked up. I stopped three feet or so

 — continued on page 27



NEED FREE CLASSES?
Call ... 464-5285
Help with HiSet, (new GED), Math, Reading,
Writing, Resumes, and ESOL

Call for more information today!

Project LIFT Adult Education
63 West Main Street, Hillsboro
Services also in Antrim, Bennington, and Peterborough
at convenient locations.



**Great Brook
Veterinary Clinic**

Dr. Tom Dowling, Veterinarian
Route 202 North • Antrim, NH 03440
603 / 588-3460

will once again have a beautiful landmark in Antrim. We are thankful to EDMUND'S HARDWARE, which has already committed to making a donation of some paint to the project. If you are able and desire to help please send checks noted for the paint project to First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 186, Antrim, NH 03440.

The Revival Shop has been able to be open two Saturdays a month and we appreciate everyone's compliance with CDC guidelines of social distancing, mask wearing, hand washing and hand sanitizing. We will continue to have the shop open every other Saturday and by appointment if another time is needed. If so, please leave a message at the church 588-2209 and someone will call you back to arrange a time. We are accepting donations of clean usable clothing for the shop. Please leave donations directly with a volunteer and do not leave items outside the shop when it is closed. The shop will be open December 5 and 19, January 2, 16, 30 and February 13 and 27 from 10-2. If you are interested in volunteering at the shop leave a message at the church number above.

After much discussion the Elders have decided to keep the building closed through the end of January. With the COVID numbers on the rise again and entering flu season, they feel the best way to share Jesus' love is to care for the safety and wellbeing of our church family by continuing with Zoom worship.

We worship via Zoom each Sunday, which also allows us fellowship time before and after the service. When we do return, we are working to being able to continue with Zoom so that we will offer a hybrid form of worship. This will allow for people who are at a distance, for whom winter driving is an issue or who are not feeling well to still be able to worship. We quickly learned that the first step was to increase our internet speed at the church. We realize this is not ideal for any of us but we truly believe this is the best way to show Jesus' love and concern for others' well-being. To join us on Zoom please e-mail me at pastorantrimfpc@gmail.com and I will send you a bulletin and a link. We do have people who will help you learn how to use Zoom on your landline, cell phone or computer.

Our manger scene will be on display on the front lawn of the church. We are thankful to keep some of our traditions alive this holiday season.

As we approach Advent (the time when we prepare ourselves for Jesus' birth on Christmas Day) on November 28th, we are encouraging people to have an Advent wreath in their home to light as we light the Advent wreath each week in worship. The Advent wreath typically has three purple candles, one pink and one white one; however, it could be as simple as having five tea light candles.

We will hold a Blue Christmas service on December 20th at 5 p.m., and the format of the service will be different this year. It will be a more contemplative time with poetry, scripture and candle lighting. Seeing as this will also be on Zoom please have a candle(s) to light as you pray over the issues such as COVID, loss of traditions, loss of a loved one or anything that is making you feel blue at a time when society says we should all be merry and bright!

For the Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. on December 24th, we will light the Christ Candle using our Advent wreath candles. In addition, we will light candles to shine Christ's light into the world. Please have a taper candle, a glow stick or a flashlight so that you can shine the light as we darken the lights in our homes.

Yes, our traditions will be different this year, but we still have the Good News that the Messiah is born on Christmas Day! We may not be gathering with our families or in person as a church, but we are able to celebrate Jesus' love and to share that love in new ways this Christmas.

Lastly our Ash Wednesday Service will be February 17th at 6 p.m. to begin the season of Lent leading up to Easter in April. Stay tuned to whether this will be in person or will be on Zoom.

Once again, a huge thank you to our larger community, and we are privileged and humbled to do Jesus' work in Antrim amongst all of you! ✨



At Last Cats
at Butterfield Farm, Antrim

Pedigree Maine Coon Kittens
from Championship Lines

Visit www.atlastcats.com
or call 603-588-2403
for availability.



Commercial & Residential
Free Estimates
Fully Insured



Robblee
Tree Service LLC

Tree Removal • Pruning • Bucket Truck
Stump Grinding • Views • Crane Service

Andrew J. Robblee
Owner

Antrim (603) 588-2094
Rindge (603) 899-6382

www.robbleetreeservice.com

away, respecting his space as one should do on first meeting a horse. He gazed curiously and didn't move. I did the same. What Merlin saw in me only he knows. I saw the largest horse I've met, over 16 hands high (Henry VIII defined a hand as four inches some 500 years ago and no one has ever dared disagree with him), and massive, probably weighing about 1,500 pounds. There was a draft horse in Merlin's ancestry: aside from the size and musculature, he had the hairy ankles of the Clydesdales in Budweiser advertising. He was descended at least in part from the huge, immensely strong north European horses bred in the Middle Ages for honest toil and grim warfare, with the power to pull ploughs or bear knights in heavy armor into battle.

I stepped closer. He sniffed at me. I bent, sniffed back, moved closer, and our nostrils began exchanging breaths, one way for horse and rider to make their acquaintances.

I easily placed the halter over Merlin's head, secured it, and attached the lead rope. Then we walked back to the first barn. I secured and groomed him. A horse that stands five feet, six inches tall at the shoulders, not counting the neck and head, requires even a six-footer to spend some time on tiptoe while working the brushes.

I found the tack room's largest saddle pad, *dressage* saddle and girth. They fit him. I returned for the reins, bridle and bit. I tossed the reins over his head, unclipped and removed the halter, and, seizing the top of the bridle, drew the bit into his mouth and the headstall over his ears. After some adjustments, I led him to a huge, rectangular indoor arena. We went to the mounting block.

I aspire to mount from the ground, placing my left foot in the stirrup and then pushing off with my right leg, gracefully passing it over the horse's body. I've read that Montgomery Clift had never ridden a horse before he was cast in Howard Hawks's *Red River*. The studio gave him two weeks' training. I hope Hawks gave him a few days to recover. In watching the film, I admire how elegantly Clift mounts from the ground. I'm not up to that yet. Even if I was, I'm unsure I'd be up to it with Merlin, who's built like an enormous beer keg with legs. So I walked up the block's

steps, Dorothy keeping Merlin in place. I placed my left foot in its stirrup and leaned forward over his neck. Then I dragged my right boot across the saddle's cantle and found the stirrup. After some six months, I was again in the saddle, a place where no hour is ever wasted.

Dorothy adjusted the girth. Then I clicked my tongue and he walked, slowly. Another click and he picked up the pace. I rounded the arena once at a fast walk to settle my seat into place. Then I squeezed my calves into his torso. He began trotting.

As Merlin trotted, I posted. Dorothy called out, "Kneel, squat! Kneel, squat." This reminded me that I must rise and fall in rhythm with Merlin's movements by using my thighs to raise and lower my core while keeping my upper arms rigid, forearms loose, and reins short. When I rise, I kneel; when I fall, I squat. I focus on rising when he raises his off foreleg to take another step so I may be in rhythm with his movement. I also breathe from the diaphragm at his every fourth step.

This is multitasking, a word and concept I've always disliked. I was raised to finish one task at a time.

But my parents weren't riders. You can't work that way and ride. So riding is difficult for me. It's real work. I was perspiring before finishing my first round of the arena. It's worth every minute of it. We rode on.

Merlin's power to endure means he will probably stay at the trot as long as I can post. I did my best and, not for the first time in my riding life, fell short. Dorothy, ever perceptive, directed me to take a walk break. Then back to the trot, moving in ever larger circles and shifting up and down the arena. Merlin and I changed direction by crossing the rectangle from one corner to another, on the diagonal, and turned left or right as need be, always at the trot.

Lesson over, I dismounted. My boot caught on the cantle. I managed to pull it loose over Merlin's back, landing on my heels, the impact shaking my teeth.

— continued on page 28

Reliable, Quality, Professional Service at Competitive Rates

JCL SEPTIC SERVICE LLP
— Frank's Septic Service

Septic Tank Pumping • Septic Installation • Leach Field Inspection
 Cover Extensions • Pipe Repair • Complete Excavation • Baffle Repairs

588-2520 464-4802
529-8818 924-4433

LICENSED BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

www.JCLSEPTICSERVICE.com




GBS students working on a project (socially distanced).

I led him back to the stable, groomed him again—cleaning off the sweat and dirt after a lesson is a tangible expression of my gratitude for his work—and began returning him to his paddock. Merlin is, as they say, “strongly food-motivated.” He saw some tall grass and impulsively lunged for it, his left hoof incidentally stepping on my right boot, pressing it with all of his 1,500 pounds. My language was somewhat colorful. He shifted his weight to seize another clump of grass. I pulled my boot from under his hoof.

I’d neglected an early lesson: it’s not the horse’s job to know where my feet are, it’s my job to know where his feet are. Then I fought him past the last clumps of grass into his paddock.

Then I made a mistake. He’d worked hard and done his best for me. He was an easy horse with whom to work. I took a carrot from my right front pocket and palmed it to his lips, which engulfed it. I instantly became Merlin’s new best friend. He kissed me on my face, helmet, and shoulders, looking for the place where I kept the carrots, while I tried to unclip the moving target of the lead rope.

I succeeded. I closed the gate, returned to the barn, cleaned the bit, put away the bit, bridle and reins, swept the floor of his hair and detritus, and went home. By the way, my foot is fine.

Vermont’s colorful rank of Captain-General of the Forces is also held by the Governors of Connecticut and of Rhode Island. Parenthetically, the latter declared her independence of Great Britain on May 4, 1776, two months before Congress got around to it. To borrow a line from Shakespeare, “Though she be but little, she is fierce.”

Captain-General is the highest ceremonial rank in the Royal Marines, last held by the Duke of Sussex before he left public life. It is the highest rank in the Spanish Army, held only by the King.

And afternoons on horseback in Vermont are appropriate. After all, Ethan Allen, patriot and freedom fighter, promised on his deathbed that, in Vermont’s hour of greatest need, he would return from the dead to her aid, galloping across the Green Mountains, incarnate as a great white horse. ❄



Antrim-Bennington Lions Club Operation Santa elves gather gifts for local children in need. From left: Martha Pinello, Linda Bryer, Helene Newbold, Lois Essex and Jean Nannicelli.

AHS Membership

The Antrim Historical Society depends on the generosity of friends in and outside the community to enable us to preserve the history of the town of Antrim. Please consider a membership in the Antrim Historical Society to help us with our endeavors. Individual membership is \$15/year and family membership is \$25/year. Please send your remittance to:

Antrim Historical Society
PO Box 172
Antrim, NH 03440

For more information, contact Neil Brown by phone at 352-571-0124 or email at brownneilh@aol.com. ❄

Sharing the Caring...





**MONADNOCK
FAMILY
SERVICES**

The Monadnock Adult Care Center offers a comfortable structured day program for adults 18 and over.
Call today 603-532-2427
22 North Street, Jaffrey, NH www.mfs.org

Financial Assistance is available for those who qualify.



NH PIONEER

Chimney & Home Repair

COMPLETE CHIMNEY SERVICE: Sweeping, Inspections, Relining, Waterproofing, Repointing, Critter Removal, Caps Installed, Leaks Stopped, Dryer Vent Cleaning, Prefab Chimney & Wood Stove Installations, Chimneys Rebuilt.

Roofing & Roofing Stain Removal
Veterans & Seniors Discount • Condo Discounts

Insured • Over 20 Years' Experience • Free Estimates
Visit us at: www.nhpioneer.com

10% Off Chimney Cleaning with this ad

Prompt, Courteous Service



Marcel J. Couturier

Route 9 • Antrim, NH 603-588-3908

The Revival Shop

GENTLY-USED CLOTHING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

OPEN EVERY OTHER SATURDAY
AND BY APPOINTMENT

Leave a message at 588-2209 and your call will be returned.

Masks and social distancing required

OPEN: DECEMBER 5 & 19
JANUARY 2, 16 & 30 • FEBRUARY 13 & 27

First Presbyterian Church, 73 Main Street, Antrim

How Did Antrim Vote in 2020?

Joan Gorga

Although the volunteers and other election officials at Town Hall were kept quite busy all day, the November 3rd General Election was pulled off smoothly by our dedicated crew, and the results were made available within two hours of the polls closing. At the beginning of Election Day, Antrim had 2023 registered voters; 137 additional voters registered during the day, for a total of 2160 registered voters out of a population estimated to be about 2700 residents. There were 1247 regular ballots cast and 351 absentee ballots, for a total of 1598 ballots, or a 74% turnout of registered voters, slightly below Antrim's average turnout of 77% for general elections in presidential election years over the past twenty-four years. It was an unusual experience to be standing in a line stretching down Main Street, though, and I was told that at one point the line wrapped clear around Town Hall.

The outer envelopes of the record 351 absentee ballots were opened a few days before Election Day. Three ballots had inner envelopes lacking the required signatures. Those voters were contacted; each quickly remedied the situation, and no absentee ballots were rejected in Antrim. Absentee ballot processing was finished and the ballots were counted while the polls were open on Election Day.

It is clear that we're living in a painfully divided nation right now, and New Hampshire is not immune. Many statewide and more local elections were closely contested. How did Antrim's vote compare with the rest of Hillsborough County, the respective districts and the rest of the State of New Hampshire? In many, but not all, of the contests, Antrim voted slightly more Republican than the rest of the county or district. This meant that, in Antrim, the Trump/Pence ticket edged out the Biden/Harris ticket by a 49% to 48% margin, whereas in both Hillsborough County and the State of New Hampshire, Biden/Harris won by a 53% to 45% margin. Antrim voters, like those of the rest of the state, split their votes among candidates of both major parties, rather than voting a strict party line. Thus, Antrim supported Donald Trump/Mike Pence (R) for President, Chris Sununu (R) for Governor, Jeanne Shaheen (D) for US Senator, Ann McLane Kuster (D) for US Representative from District 2, Dave Wheeler (R) for Executive Council from District 5, Ruth Ward (R) for State Senate from District 8, Marjorie Porter (D) and Jim Fedolfi (R) for State Representatives from Hillsborough County District 1 and Jim Creighton (R) and Stephanie Hyland (D) for State Representatives from Hillsborough County District 38. In all cases except the presidential race, Antrim voted for the eventual election winners. *

2020 General Election results for Antrim compared to county, district and state results. Data is presented as the percent of total votes cast for each major candidate. Write-in votes are not presented. Declared winners are indicated in bold.

President/VP	Trump/Pence (R)	Biden/Harris (D)	Jorgensen/Cohen (Lib)
Antrim	49	48	2
Hillsborough Cty	45	53	2
State of NH	45	53	2

Governor	Sununu (R)	Feltes (D)	Perry (Lib)
Antrim	64	34	2
Hillsborough Cty	66	32	2
State of NH	65	33	1

US Senator	Messner (R)	Shaheen (D)	O'Donnell (Lib)
Antrim	43	54	3
Hillsborough Cty	41	57	2
State of NH	41	57	2

US Rep	Negron (R)	Kuster (D)	Olding (Lib)
Antrim	46	51	2
District 2	44	54	2

Executive Council	Wheeler (R)	Pignatelli (D)
Antrim	53	47
District 5	51	49

State Senate	Ward (R)	Alford-Teaster (D)
Antrim	54	46
District 8	56	44

State Rep District 1*	Fedolfi (R)	Valera (R)	Porter (D)	White (D)
Antrim	26	24	27	24
District 1	28	25	25	22

State Rep District 38*	Colcombe (R)	Creighton (R)	Bosman (D)	Hyland (D)
Antrim	25	27	23	25
District 38	25	26	24	25

*Two candidates for state representative were elected in each of Hillsborough County Districts 1 and 38.

MOUNT MONADNOCK
Bruce McGuffin

Mount Monadnock
Is an odd rock
Rising up above the plain.

Standing lonely,
It's the only
Mountain in a one-link chain.

The Grapevine

FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Melissa Gallagher, Director

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As 2020 draws to a close, we have much to be thankful for. Yet, we have experienced significant disruption and change in our lives. The Grapevine is proud to have continued its programs and services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic with minimal disruption. Our facility re-opened in July with limited programming, and this fall we resumed in-person programs for parents, families and teens in socially distanced, outdoor settings.

Please consider donating to our organization this holiday season. We are a local, trusted non-profit serving our community for nearly twenty-five years. You can easily give at our website, grapevინeh.org, by clicking on the GIVE button.

Our thanks to all who donated and participated in our 2020 Online Auction in November. We are able to provide our many programs and resources because of local, individual support. As always, we truly value your feedback. Please email me directly with your input at melissag@grapevინeh.org. Thank you!

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

To **Bantam Grill** of Peterborough. For the 6th consecutive year, Bantam has hosted the BeastMaster's Classic dinner, with 100 percent of the proceeds donated to The Grapevine. This year, we designated these funds to our Avenue A Teen Center. Owner Harris Welden and his entire staff—especially Russell Novotny and Morgan Jadis—worked tirelessly for this October event, which raised over **\$8,000!** We are incredibly grateful and honored to receive this gift.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Free Tax Preparation

IRS-certified tax preparer Larry Schwartz is providing free tax preparation at The Grapevine on Monday afternoons by appointment from January 18–April 12. All returns will be filed electronically. Call The Grapevine now to schedule your appointment as slots fill quickly.

Loving the dogs of Antrim & Beyond since 2006

Grooming
Daycare
Training
Food Club

Treats, toys, natural flea & tick control, collars, leashes, no-pull harnesses & much more!

177 Clinton Rd, Antrim 588-2030
onewoof@tds.net www.underonewoof.info

Dads' Support Group

Interested in a Dads' Group? We have heard that dads don't usually get the time to talk together about being a parent and all of the other things that come up along the way. We are considering offering an opportunity for dads to connect virtually. Please let us know if you are interested by calling 588-2620 and asking for Carol.

ONGOING PROGRAMMING AND RESOURCES

Kinship Navigator Program

If you are a grandparent parenting your grandchildren or a relative caregiver, you are not alone. Our Kinship Navigator, Rosemary Nugent, a parenting grandmother, can offer emotional support, help accessing resources, connection to other relative caregivers, and a friendly voice to check in as you need it. We know that the change from being a grandparent to a parenting grandparent can be a big one and we have heard from other grandparents that the support has been invaluable. Call 588-2620 and ask for Carol or email Rosemary at rosemaryn@grapevინeh.org.

Weekly Child & Parent Programs

The Grapevine welcomes all children from birth to five years of age and their parents to our weekly children's programs. We are planning for January programs as we can do so safely. If you are interested in connecting with other parents, please call the Grapevine at 588-2620 and ask for Carol. We are very interested in knowing what people need at this time.

- Better Beginnings Playgroups in Hillsborough (at the Dubben House on Main Street): Mondays, 1–2:30
- Better Beginnings playgroups and parent groups: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 9:30–11:30

Community Wood Bank is Open!

The purpose of our community wood bank is to act as a temporary resource in emergency situations for those who

ALBERTO'S

ITALIAN CUISINE

"Best Food by a Dam Site"
Family Dining Since 1945

Veal, Lasagna, Chicken, Steaks, Pork Chops
Fresh Fish – Haddock, Scallops

Now serving gluten free pizza and pasta!
Home of Original Thin Crust Pizza

Full Liquor License
Res./Take Out
(603) 588-6512

Non-Smoking
Bennington, NH
Open Daily 5 p.m.

The Grapevine

use wood as their primary heat source. If you are able to help us deliver to a neighbor who finds themselves suddenly in need, give us a call at 588-2620.

Community Tool Lending Shed is Open!

Do you need a special tool or piece of equipment? We may have the right one for you. Please email the Toolshed Committee at toolshed@grapevინeh.org with your request or if you would like to donate tools! *Please do not drop off any tools without contacting us first.*

Watch Me Grow—Developmental Screening Tool Available to Families

Watch Me Grow is a statewide initiative to offer families “information about children’s health and development, developmental screening questionnaires based on your child’s age, tips on how to help children grow and learn, and connections to services, supports and resources when needed.” The Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ3) is the screening tool offered by Watch Me Grow. If you are interested in trying out an ASQ3 with your child, call The Grapevine and ask for Carol or visit the website watchmegrownh.org to complete the screening online.

Are you 60 or older and looking for a local and friendly way to maintain and increase your strength, balance and independence? Call us about the Strong Living Senior Exercise program on Tuesdays and Fridays from 1:30–2:30 at the Grapevine.

An additional thank you to the many people who supported The Grapevine in so many ways over the fall, including:

- The **local businesses, families, and shoppers** who gave to our 2020 Online Auction during the month of November.
- **Glenn Stann, John Conklin and Tom Badgley** for their work with the Community Tool Shed.
- **Jesse Lazar, Pete Davison, Rick Sudsbury, Nevan Cassidy and Steve Lord** for donating wood to our Com-



Teens enjoy Art Club outdoors on the Grapevine lawn. Photo by Jacqueline Roland



Grapevine staff enjoy a snack with children in one of our outdoor-based programs this fall. Photo by Melissa Gallagher

munity Wood Bank and **Tom Badgley** for delivering and splitting wood on site as well as tending to our raised bed gardens.

- **Lisa Swarbrick** for volunteering her time to weed and landscape our front yard.
- See the Avenue A article for many more volunteer recognitions!

SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THE GRAPEVINE...

- Information and Referral to resources for food, housing, heating and other needs
- Community Wood Bank—for urgent needs
- Community Tool Lending Shed—email toolshed@grapevინeh.org for requests
- Tax Preparation and Budgeting Assistance with Larry Schwartz of PHC Financial
- Onsite child and family counseling with Winter F. Keeler. Please call us for more information.

The Grapevine is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit family and community resource center located at 4 Aiken Street in Antrim, behind the Tuttle Library. For more information call 588-2620, or email info@grapevინeh.org. We gratefully accept donations, which are tax deductible. Please make your donation online at www.grapevინeh.org or mail a check payable to The Grapevine to PO Box 637, Antrim, NH 03440. Visit us on social media at facebook.com/grapevინeh.org and Instagram: [@the-grapevine-frc](https://the-grapevine-frc). ❁

Come in, Eat and Enjoy!

GREAT BRICK OVEN PIZZA

Hot Steak & Cheese Subs

Ocean Fresh Seafood

Home Made Onion Rings

Spicy Buffalo Wings

BIG Burgers

Rick & Diane's
588-3388

Delicious Deli Subs

Garden Salads

62 Main St. Antrim, NH

Calzones

OPEN

Sunday 11am - 8pm
Tue - Thur 11am - 9pm
Friday 11am - 10pm
Saturday 11am - 9pm
Closed Monday



We now have
Beer & Wine
to enjoy with
your meal

BEST RECIPE BEST PIZZA

5% DISCOUNT For all Fire & Police Dept. Personnel and Seniors 65+

The *Limrik*
PO Box 84
Antrim, NH 03440

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE PAID
ANTRIM, NH 03440

POSTAL PATRON
ANTRIM, NH 03440