

MARCH 2019

# HALIFAX NEWS

61 YEARS WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT



2019 marks the 61<sup>st</sup> year Wayne Courser has been a volunteer fireman with the Halifax Fire Department, and his 49<sup>th</sup> as Fire Chief. How is he spending his days this winter? Getting to know the department's newest firetruck (pictured). Aside from when he goes home – right next door to the fire station – to eat or sleep, Joan says he is working on the newly acquired truck every minute of every day. The fire department also acquired a replacement tanker truck, the first one in neon lime-yellow. While it definitely needs new door lettering (see picture), it is a welcome addition to the fleet. The old tanker truck's tank was rusting through. Neither truck is new, but both are in good shape and significantly improve the equipment of the Halifax Fire Department. Guess how many trucks are wedged into the firehouse these days?

~ Laurel Copeland, Halifax, Vermont

## TOWN NEWS

### TOWN MEETING MARCH 5

Come one, come all! The annual Halifax Town Meeting begins at 10 AM on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> in the school gym at 246 Branch Road, West Halifax. There will be a break about noon for the potluck lunch.



## HALIFAX COMMUNITY HALL ACTIVITIES

The Hall is used each Wed. for Tai Chi at 10 AM. Stop by and join in. Contact: Seth 802-490-4294.

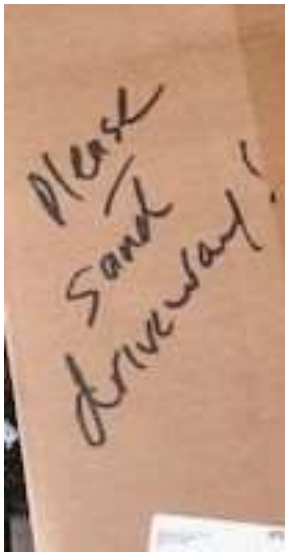
To rent our beautiful, newly insulated Halifax Community Hall, contact Joan Courser at (802) 368-7733 or [JWCinVT@gmail.com](mailto:JWCinVT@gmail.com). - Joan Courser

✕**HALIFAX COMMUNITY CLUB** will not meet in March 2019. The Halifax Community Club is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Gifts are tax-deductible. Contact: [LaurelACopeland@gmail.com](mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com) or 368-7097. HCC documents: <https://czresearch.com/halifax/>

## STRANGE HAPPENINGS AND A CAUTIONARY TALE

Joan watched a pickup and another vehicle stop and 'do something' in the area of the Community Hall corner for quite a few minutes one night. This took place at 3 AM !!!!! I wondered what they were up to??? The next day I found 50 cans/bottles dumped on top of the corner barrel near the fence at the Community Hall and spilling down into the road. A paper grocery bag placed over top of a fence post had written on it, "One Day of Pick-up in Halifax." Good reminder: DO NOT LITTER! We will recycle the cans that were collected.

On a strangely warm (37F) Tuesday morning (Feb 5), Laurel discovered black ice (invisible but slippery as all get out) at the PO so was proceeding cautiously down Route 112 alongside of the Gorge, where the road twists and drops, when she came across a car flipped over onto its roof! Beware the black ice.



A UPS driver left his plea on my doorstep (see pic) – I guess my 700-foot driveway can be a bit of a challenge.

The mail lady seems undaunted by our Halifax ice and snow. Recently ice bearded the mailboxes and coated every tree. Tiny hailstones littered the ground.

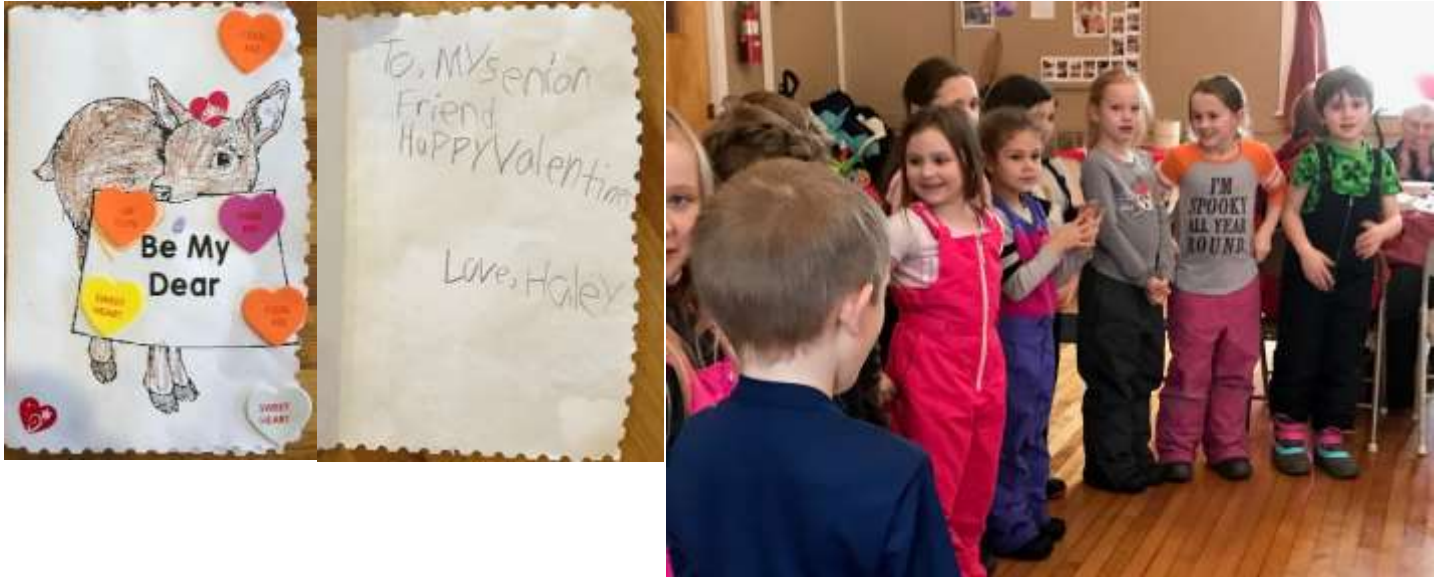




## MYSTERY HEARTS

The mysterious heart phantom visited the village of West Halifax in the dark of night the evening before Valentine's Day again! We awoke to many beautiful bright red plywood hearts in various snowbanks, what a beautiful sight!! I believe this is the fifth or sixth year. We look forward to this each year. We thank the 'heart phantom' for showing "heart" felt love for their town.

**SENIOR MEAL (CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN HALIFAX)** – Last month Senior Meal fell on the day after Saint Valentine's Day, and the seniors enjoyed a special treat: the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders came to deliver hand-make valentines, to sing songs to the seniors, and to join them for lunch and cookies.



**Friday, March 15** will be the **next Senior Meal in Halifax** (\$3/senior requested). We serve at 12 o'clock Noon in the Halifax Community Hall at 20 Brook Road, West Halifax. Menu: New England Boiled dinner with Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots, Turnip, Beets, Johnny Cake, Rolls and for dessert, Pineapple Upside-Down Cake!

All are welcome. The food is great, and the people are the best.  
Let Joan know you're coming: 802-368-7733.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

On Feb. 4 at 5:20 PM five men and one truck responded to a call to 'cover' Wilmington station in route they were called to the scene of a house fire in the Lake Raponda area. Returning at 10:10 PM.

On Feb 5 at 7:48 AM seven firefighters one truck and Deerfield Valley ambulance responded to Rte. 112 in Halifax to a motor vehicle accident.

On Feb. 6 at 11:18 AM six men and two trucks responded to a chimney fire on Collins Road in Halifax. Returning at 11:48 AM

The fire department has monthly 50-50 raffle tickets available. Ten dollars a month. Call Wayne at 802-368-7733 if you are interested. A great way to support your fire department. Every little bit helps. They are an all-volunteer department that raises their own money for trucks and all other equipment.

## JOAN'S SIGHTINGS



I saw a fox one night walking right by our home and then up the road. It looked kind of thin. I think perhaps hunting is slim with all the snow and ice on the ground. Thankfully my chickens are safe! It is only the second fox of the season I have seen. I am concerned for the deer, also, as I myself have not seen any, not even tracks which we usually see down back. With no wild apples or nuts this winter, it is hard for them. I think it is difficult for them to get around because of the layered snow and ice. Wayne said he has seen a few deer tracks.

I am still enjoying many winter birds. Chickadees, Titmice, Sparrows, still see four Cardinals that come each evening at dusk, feeding out front just before dark. I look forward to seeing them while doing dishes.

Many, many Mourning Doves come each day, plus two Downy Woodpeckers, one Hairy Woodpecker, two White-breasted Nuthatch and a Red-breasted Nuthatch, too. Four or five Blue Jays, four Grey Squirrels and a few Red ones, and the Wild Turkey number has ballooned to 46!!!! They come some days three or four times a day and eat up the bird feed from the ground. They seem to be growing. There were a lot of young ones when they first came, and they are getting bigger and some have acquired beards - - so some are Jakes (males).

I love seeing them come but they sure eat a lot!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Eddie Fenton has been catching mice all winter, but this month she caught a mole! She offered it to the crows, who obliged with their carrion cleanup act.

Lynda and Laurel Copeland put up a new bird feeder and are seeing blue jays, chickadees, and tufted titmice. The lovely Tufted Titmouse is pictured. Luckily, the ravens do not fit on the little feeder.

Send your animal sightings to me at: [jwcinvt@gmail.com](mailto:jwcinvt@gmail.com)

- Joan Courser

**NEWSLETTER - Got a great Halifax story? Write it up and send it over!** Send your story to Joan at [JWCinVt@gmail.com](mailto:JWCinVt@gmail.com) (802.368.7733) and / or Laurel at [LaurelACopeland@gmail.com](mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com).

### OWL STORY, PART 2

Triple T Trucking driver Shannon stopped to pick up our garbage the other day. I was waiting for him to ask him the outcome of the Owl story I wrote about last month.

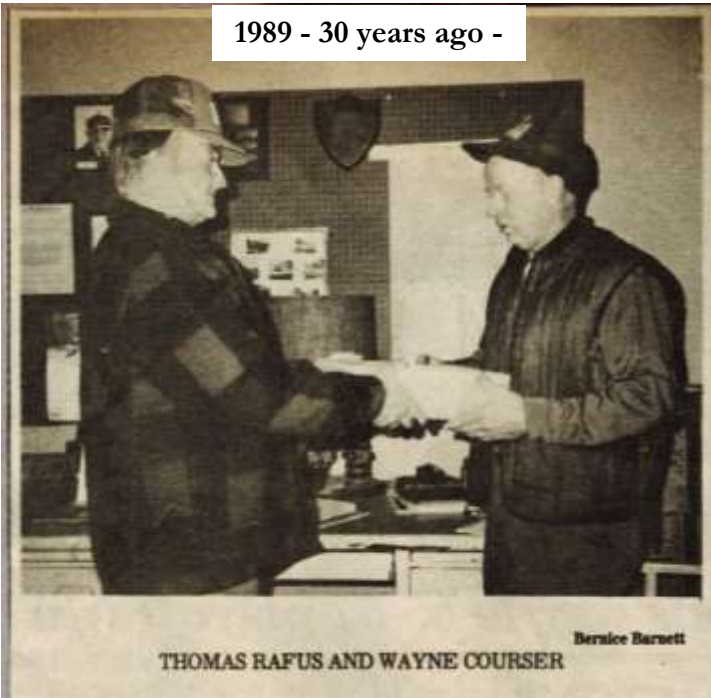
Shannon took the injured owl to Williamstown, Vt. to a fellow that rehabilitates owls and other birds. He kept the owl for a week but could not find any bodily injuries to the owl. A vet also checked out the owl and said the same: no bodily injuries. Both men said they thought the owl had a slight head injury and that made it so it could not fly properly until it healed. After a few more days of rest, the rehabilitator released the owl in Williamstown. Shannon wanted to release the owl back in Halifax but was not called when it was released. We all hope the owl is fine and having a good life where-ever it is.

Shannon should be commended for doing what he did for that owl. If you see him, shake his hand and say, "thank you!"





1989 - 30 years ago -



## Halifax fire chief honored

By BERNICE BARNETT

HALIFAX — Emotions showed when Wayne Courser, fire chief of the Halifax Volunteer Fire Company, was honored and given a gift of a programmable scanner at the last meeting of the fire company.

Thomas Rafus, presenting the gift, spoke of Courser's long years of service and dedication to the fire company.

"A going beyond the call of duty, so to speak," Rafus said.

Joining the fire department as a young man, Courser has served for 31 years, 18 as chief.

In a recent interview, Courser outlined the improvement of the fire company over the years.

"The Halifax Fire company was started in 1948. The only equipment the young company had was a portable pump and hose which was drawn on a trailer behind members' vehicles. I think it was stored in Bowen's barn. The first motorized truck was a Reo which was purchased in Sunderland, Mass., in 1949. That was stored in a number of different places. The second truck was a used GMC and was bought in 1955," Courser said.

He said one of the early problems that plagued the fledgling company was that the early trucks carried very little water and, for lack of a warm storage place, had to be drained after every use.

According to Courser one of the biggest accomplishments was the renovation of the old West Halifax school building into a fire house in 1959. Trucks could be stored in a warm place and maintained easier. In 1961, a used Maxim fire truck was bought and other equipment was added such as fire coats, hoses, air packs. The Grange donated much money to purchase equipment, he said.

Today, the response time of the Halifax Fire Department is much faster, due mostly to the communication system that is in place, according to Courser.

"Firefighting equipment is also better. For instance, nozzles on fire hoses have improved," he said. "Also the new firehouse built in 1975 is much bigger, and adds greatly to our efficiency.

"In 1969 or '70, Halifax was the first fire company in the area to join the Tri-State mutual aid system. This also helps us serve the community better," he added.

The company now has two tankers, two pumpers, and one brush truck, along with portable pumps. Courser was quick to praise the company's members.

"All this wouldn't be possible if it weren't for the members. They're good members and a lot of them work hard."

# The Vermont Phoenix

March 1949

- 70 years ago -

## South Halifax

Not much syrup has been made as yet in this section.

Archie Burnett has rented the O. P. Hubbard sugar orchard for the season.

Robert Childs returned to his home in Deerfield, Mass., after a week's stay with his grandfather, D. E. Harris.

Mr. and Mrs. John Miner and two children of Colrain, Mass., were recent guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Miner.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Harris of Colrain and George Ranger of Holyoke, Mass., were Sunday guests at D. E. Harris's.

## THIS YEAR'S SAP TESTS SWEETER

### Forester Says Color of Sirup Depends on Weather

Although it is still too early to make crop predictions because of the usual uncertainty of late-winter and early-spring. County Forester Frederick J. Turner said Monday that maple sap seems to be testing up much sweeter than last year.

On one tree tested Sunday, Turner said, the sugar content ran to about 7½ per cent. The same tree tested about a year ago at four per cent and at about four per cent last fall, Turner said. If this is any true indicator, he added, two to three gallons of sirup may be made this spring from two barrels of sap as compared to the average 1½ gallons in 1948.

If the weather remains unseasonably warm from now until the running season, Turner said, the sirup will be dark in color as it was last March. Cold weather will be needed in the next few weeks for light sirup. This was the case in 1947, when the bulk of the crop was of fancy grade, although both past seasons were rather poor.

Turner made his tests of sap droplets with a refractometer, instead of a hydrometer. He has found this method just as accurate as well as being easier and quicker.

He emphasized, however, that a succession of freezing nights and thawing days will be necessary, as in the past, for a good run of sap.

News from Bygone Days

~ C. Lancaster, Halifax Historical Society

SNOWY / MUDDY / SUNNY / ICY / BITTERLY COLD FEBRUARY



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MARCH 2019

Red Hearts Appeared in West Halifax  
on Saint Valentine's Day

Editor [LaurelACopeland@gmail.com](mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com). Color e-mail version available.