

APRIL 2020

HALIFAX NEWS

Remembering Edie Fenton (2031-2020)



EDIE FENTON April 14, 1931 - March 14, 2020

As you hold this newsletter in your hands and read it, some will have been doing so since 1983.

My memories go back to a day in 1983 standing in Edie's living room, just visiting or perhaps we did some sort of a project at Edie's place or maybe we just walked her trails behind her house, but during that visit Edie said to me, "we need to do a newsletter for the people of Halifax, just some news, jokes and maybe some old history of the town. Do you think folks would like that??" "Well, Edie," I said, "I do think folks would like something like that. Do you think we are up to doing something like that??" "Well, I do. Yes, I do think we could come up with something like that. Not really be a 'town newsletter', just something we do for folks. Let's not get into 'town politics' -- just newsy stuff and some jokes." And Edie laughed. Edie liked to laugh and did so very, very often and wanted everyone to join in with her. Edie said, "I have a mimeograph machine here; we

could use that to print it on." We ruined lots of clothes on the thing!!!!

Well....I guess we could do that. Let's give a try, we said. And we did.

So...as you hold and read this April 2020 newsletter...please think of Edie. I am beyond sorry to tell you that we lost Edie on March 14, 2020. She passed very, very suddenly at her beloved home in her much-loved adopted Halifax.

She moved here in 1976 or maybe '77. I moved here in April of 1976, and she came here very shortly after I did. She has been a dear, close friend all those years and is missed very, very much. I called her Edie Dee and she called me Joanie Baloney!!!

Edie just loved her little house here in Halifax. I remember her telling me that she looked at so many places but finally found just what she wanted. She and I did lots and lots and *lots* of brush cutting behind her little house to make 'her trails'. She walked, skied and snowshoed them many, many, many times. Sometimes alone and many times with her many, many, many friends. She built her own garage and other things she wanted and needed. She was a hard worker and made her place just what she wanted by her hard work. She planted many beautiful flowers, bushes and trees. Her place always looked good. I will miss the yearly dish of blueberries she gave to friends from her low bush berry bushes.

Edie was just one month shy of becoming 89 years old, but you would never know her age by her actions. Oh, sure she slowed down some, but she was always, always willing to help when asked. She helped at the monthly Senior Meals here in Halifax. She livened things up. She was a Grange member (we had tons of fun there), she was a town Lister and a great supporter of 'her Halifax'. We hiked many trails -- miles in town and elsewhere.

Hank Wonsey took her to every cemetery in Halifax and to graves on old properties; she was just interested in everything historical in her adopted town. I can still vividly recall Edie, myself and Laura Sumner walking home from the Wittes one evening, singing at the top of our lungswe were not intoxicated either....you always sang when with Edie !!!!! She used to break into song while serving the seniors at Halifax Senior Meal.....they loved it.

Halifax will never be quite the same without her.....REST IN PEACE, Dear Friend.....you are missed.

~Joan Courser, Halifax Vermont

TOWN NEWS

HALIFAX DIRECTORY

We are compiling a Halifax Directory. If you would like to be listed in the Directory, or if you would like your business to be listed in the Directory, please send your information to LaurelACopeland@gmail.com (or mail to 1513 Hanson Road, Brattleboro VT 05301). Send the information you want published: Name, Business Name, Address, Telephone, Cell Phone, Email. Feel free to share this request with other Halifax residents and other persons associated with Halifax. We would love to have your submission by June 1, 2020. We need a little money to print the directory. Ads can be purchased – ask us! – *Penfield Chester & Laurel Copeland*

4/17: SENIOR MEAL (SERVING IN HALIFAX SINCE 2000)

Last month because of the **coronavirus**, the Halifax Senior Meal was available by pickup, only, from outside the Community Hall. This month we will do the same to limit social contacts. On **Friday, April 17, 2020** the Senior Meal will again be provided in **takeout clamshells from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax. All seniors are welcome. Please call Joan to let her know you want meals: 802.368.7733. The meal is sponsored by an anonymous donor. No in-person donations can be accepted.

OLD HOME DAYS are July 15 through July 19, 2020 celebrating Halifax's 270th year! We are still planning and scheduling and moving forward with the preparations for Old Home Day in July. We are hopeful that we will not have to postpone the event. Please continue to send in your thoughts and suggestions for activities; they are greatly appreciated. The committee will be meeting via video conferencing to maintain the social distancing. Contact: Patty Dow halifax@myfairpoint.net. Please stay safe and healthy, and we hope to see everyone in July !!!!

JOAN'S SIGHTINGS

I am enjoying the many birds with lots of new spring birds. Brown-Headed Cowbirds have picked up in numbers, the Goldfinches are getting



lots more of their yellow feathers, lots & lots of Red-Winged Blackbirds are here. They have been a favorite of mine since childhood. I can remember walking the dirt roads by the farm and seeing them. We did have one Robin here. Marion Canedy had a large flock of Cedar Waxwings eating berries at her place and many Blue Jays. I still have lots and lots of Blue Jays but not as many as before. I hope I am sharing them. They eat the seed up before the other birds can get any. The number of Purple Finch is larger also. Still have the Cardinals coming but not as many. The woodpeckers are still coming to the feeders, and I am hearing but not seeing a Pileated Woodpecker -- he is just hammering away not far off. Lots of Shiny Headed Blackbirds, a couple of Rose-Breasted Nuthatch and a White-breasted one. Still a few Titmouse. Anyone have some spring birds that I don't have yet???? Guess I'll have to wait until early May to see who gets the first Hummer -- Liz or I ??? The birds at my feeders are a great diversion during our "Stay in place" order from our Governor. These are 'trying' times'.....but "this too shall pass." Stay home...stay healthy...and wait for spring weather....the 8 inches of snow a few days ago was not especially welcome but it did green up the grass. No events to announce as everything is canceled...take a walk...enjoy the sunshine.

Send your animal sightings to Joan at: jwcinvt@gmail.com - Joan Courser

Linda Lyon reported on a recent walk with the dogs: "Hanson Rd was quiet except for the birds. Jays, white-throated sparrows, pileated woodpeckers, red-tailed hawks, and more. The robins in Lynda's yard apparently did not get the memo that we expect 8+ inches of snow tomorrow." Lynda reported a bear beating on her kitchen window one night. Andrea Rand took the lovely photograph of a rather shy Brown Creeper at right.



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Mar. 7 Nine men and one truck responded to Old Lane for a tree on wires.

Mar. 13 Four men responded to Hubbard Hill for an ill lady; the ambulance transported her to Greenfield hospital.

Mar. 17, Seven men and one truck responded to Pennell Hill Road for a motor vehicle accident.

Mar. 24 Five men and one truck went to Colrain, MA to cover their station. After some time, they were called to cover Shelburne Falls fire station and Whitingham covered the Colrain station.



SORROW

We were devastated to learn of the death of Edith C. Fenton (April 14, 1931-March 14, 2020). Edie passed away at home following a brief respiratory illness. She was a vibrant member of our community for 43 years, giving generously of her time and many talents. She helped build the rest rooms onto the Community Hall with Luther Ray, donated her time to the Whitingham Library, Halifax Senior Meal and Halifax Newsletter, among other causes, made wood carvings as gifts, and kept a beautiful garden and woodland trail at her home on Collins Road. We will miss her tremendous spirit, great sense of humor, and infectious laugh.

Neighbor and poet Gregg Orifici enjoyed visiting and talking and gardening with Edie. He wrote, “the poem below was penned after a recent January afternoon visit to a lady I much enjoyed and admired.”

Chainsaw Lady

I don't think of myself as old,
My accent is as *shaap* as ever
A bit shaky though at almost 89, I admit
I'm not as comfortable with my chainsaw
As I used to be
But Less wood more oil
Makes my pension nervous

I'm old school
Hatha, nothing fancy—
Shoulder stands and downward dog
So I can shovel my driveway
and shoe my eight acres
at my own speed—
who needs a man

I tried one at 50
for the first time
for a short time
Then sent the cheapskate packin'
No bang for the buck

Best thing I did
Was buy this snuggle down house
In the middle of nowhere
The roads wash out and you can't
Get there from here—

Halifax was always divided
Except Wednesdays and Thursdays
When the Town Clerk could get off
And newcomer and local lady explorers
Would mix it up in woods and on ridges
We didn't label, or trample
The wildflowers we hopscotched
On the way to the cave
We carried some home—
The fringed gentian I couldn't get to take
In the garden

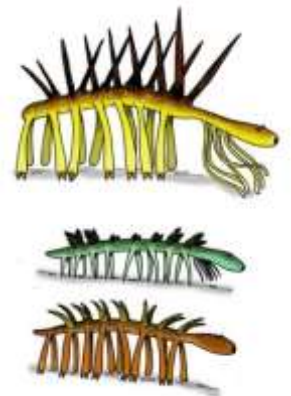
I played the wash bucket bass
Camping out on Lake Whitingham
We cooked over the fire
That kept the bobcats away
And what not—
Yep, we heard the catamount rumors
And the men in boats
Lucy, our leader, wore a holster round the waist
Of her jet-black bathing suit
The revolver was loaded—sometimes
So were we.

-- Gregg Orifici, Halifax, Vermont

Edie had a unique sense of humor, a great love of nature, and a keen eye. Her photos speak for themselves. Below are Edie's flowers, Edie's weather art shots (those are clouds outside the window), and Edie's animals (well, not all animals were friends -- the drowned mice were served to the crows and hawks on Collins Road).



A couple of years ago, she gave me seeds from her garden and clippings from her lemon-scented geraniums -- still thriving in my windowsills (left). In return, I sent her a pet for her birthday, an extinct lobopodans (worm with legs). Upon receiving it, she asked, and what do I call my new pet? I told her its name was *Hallucigenia* (it's pictured at right). She thought that sounded about right.



DARK SKIES. The third week of March offered a predawn show of the waning moon and three planets in the southeast. Jupiter, Mars, and Saturn were close to each other and the moon from about 5 a.m. to sunrise around 7. Eventually the moon was new, leaving the planets alone on the horizon; look for them 5:00-6:30 a.m. Keep watching Venus, highly visible right after sunset, hanging in the western sky for a few hours with the waxing crescent moon nearby (pictured).

WHITINGHAM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY in Jacksonville is closed per Gov. Scott's orders to reduce social contacts to flatten the curve of (slow down) the spread of coronavirus.

WiFi is still available outside the building 24/7.

Whitingham Free Public Library suggests these online resources:

Free Books from **Tumble!!!** Please follow the link to our Tumble site:

<http://www.whitinghamvt.org/library/announcements/free-books-tumble>

VT Online Library: https://vtonlinelib.org/index.php?loc=vol_m761c

E-books/Audio: <https://gmlc.overdrive.com/>

Whitingham Library: <http://townofwhitingham-vt.org/library>

Library Catalog Access: <https://opac.libraryworld.com/opac/home.php> Log in with Library - "Whitingham Free" & Password - (blank / none)

For information on the **coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID-19)** see link below:

<https://libraries.vermont.gov/covid19/resourcesforpatrons>



Coronavirus is making teachers out of many parents. How's that going? "Home schooling is going great: Two students were suspended for fighting, one student is in detention for talking back, and one teacher was fired for drinking on the job." Not really. But there is a lot of creativity going on out there. Hats off to you, Parents!

WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY -- HAVE YOU SEEN ANY OF THESE 5 ANIMALS CROSSING A ROAD? LET ME KNOW!

As part of a wildlife connectivity project, I am collecting sightings of where some wide-ranging mammals cross the road. Thanks for your calls and emails so far!!!

If you see one on or crossing a road, or if you see tracks that suggest one crossed the road, let me know

(LaurelACopeland@gmail.com, 368-2439). The 5 animals are Moose (tracks #9), Black Bear (tracks #35), Bobcat (tracks #7), River Otter (tracks #23), and Fisher. Feel free to print or reprint this half-page ID sheet.



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Newsletter

P O Box 27

West Halifax VT 05358



Snow drops in David's garden in Halifax Center



The Halifax Honor Roll of U. S. Veterans will move from the West Halifax church to the Community Hall. There are plans to update it as well to include the past 10 years of Halifax current or former residents who have served our country in the armed forces. Help us update it: send names of Veterans and current members of the military to Joan or Laurel.

Halifax News

APRIL 2020

NEWSLETTER - Send your Halifax story to Laurel LaurelACopeland@gmail.com or Joan JWCinVt@gmail.com (802.368.7733; PO Box 27 05358).

Editor LaurelACopeland@gmail.com. Color e-mail version available.