

JANUARY 2021

HALIFAX NEWS

GOOD DOGS

by Laurel Copeland & Linda Lyon, Halifax, Vermont

Like many, I am glad to see the last of the year 2020, the year of the COVID-19 pandemic and the year of a lot of political and social turmoil. Still, 2020 brought me some wonderful things, especially a lot of walks out-of-doors with my friend Linda Lyon. Walking 10 feet apart on the back roads of Halifax, Whitingham, and Wilmington has been a constant source of sunshine and science chatter and pure enjoyment for me. My job was converted to remote-only, eliminating my commute down to Leeds, MA, and providing me with extra flexibility in my schedule. So I have been happy to take advantage of this COVID-related windfall.



Linda lives in Halifax with her husband, Everett Wilson, and two dogs, Kelso and Chessie (see photo from Linda at left). Chessie is a puppy that Linda and Ev are raising for Canine Companions for Independence (CCI). CCI is a nationwide organization established in 1975 and funded by donations and grants. Its purpose is to train dogs to help people who have disabilities, including Veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder. To do this, CCI breeds Labrador Retriever, Golden Retriever, and Golden-Lab crosses to be raised by volunteer Puppy Raisers and then trained by professional dog trainers with the hope of making a match with a person whose life will be improved with the help of the dog.

The CCI training process is about two years long for each puppy. This is where Linda and other CCI Puppy Raisers come in. About every 15 months, CCI sends Linda an eight-week-old puppy. Through the next year and a half, Linda cares for the puppy. She pays for its shots and other veterinary services, teaches the puppy 35 commands, and puts the puppy through a socialization process by taking him to church, the library, stores, museums, concerts and plays, and social events. Her current puppy, Chessie, has not had the chance to do much of anything in 2020 because of the pandemic. Instead, Linda has had to limit his social interactions. But dogs need to walk every day, so I've really gotten to know Chessie during these many months of "Covid walks".

But wait, I hear you say, you said Linda has two dogs. Who is Kelso? Kelso is a former CCI puppy, now four years old. After the Puppy Raiser guides a CCI pup to young adulthood, it goes to "dog college" at CCI's Long Island campus to undergo intensive training. But dog college is very demanding and stressful; not all young dogs can complete the course. Those that opt out of service-dog training can be adopted. Some become



credentialed Therapy Dogs, a job that Kelso excels at. It seems that he *did* want to work, but only part-time.

This photo taken in the Halifax Community Hall in 2017 captured my dad Art's surprise just as Kelso - uninvited - landed on Art's lap! Yanni, CCI puppy #11, is in the background.

Before Covid restrictions, Kelso volunteered at several local venues, including Whitingham Free Public Library, Brooks Memorial Library, and the Brattleboro Inclusion Center. Kelso, like most of us, looks forward to the end of Covid-related restrictions when he can return to his jobs in the community.

One of Linda's CCI puppies, Norm, was adopted by a couple on Long Island. Norm became a therapy dog and works in the summertime as a surf instructor at Camp Anchor, a summer day camp for people with disabilities on Lido Beach, Long Island. (Be sure to watch the video clip at the link below.)

If you might want to raise a service dog, or if you or someone you know might benefit by having a well-trained service dog, navigate over to the CCI webpage at <https://www.cci.org/>. The puppies are wonderful, and their lives are rich and enriching to others.

More stories about CCI dogs can be found online.

CCI:

<https://www.cci.org/assistance-dogs/Our-Dogs/veterans-initiative.html>

<https://blog.cci.org/wounded-veterans-teamate-service-dog-gillian/>

<https://www.foxnews.com/lifestyle/daily-spike-canine-companions-veterans-ptsd>

Brattleboro Reformer stories:

https://www.reformer.com/community-news/readings-new-best-friend/article_190f54b6-4cca-55f1-aa12-7c92045b5867.html

https://www.reformer.com/local-news/halifax-couple-raises-dog-for-disabled-n-y-man/article_d10e98d9-21c0-57d0-b159-1318a96fc719.html

https://www.reformer.com/local-news/brattleboro-woman-raises-service-dogs-to-help-differently-abled/article_d976bbbe-283e-5180-9ccd-195aa2407480.html

https://www.reformer.com/local-news/halifax-couple-raises-puppies-only-to-say-good-bye/article_5a22a121-5565-572d-bc7a-bd48e95ffbca.html

Norm the Surfer Dog (link may not be accessible without subscription):

<https://www.newsday.com/long-island/nassau/norm-the-surfing-dog-inspires-kids-with-autism-1.10762689>

I have a little video of Norm the Surfer Dog working the waves and delighting an attendee at Camp Anchor which I can email to you. – LaurelACopeland@gmail.com



3 dogs in a tub: Nelson, Rocky & Monty
(photo: Linda Lyon)



Kelso & Chessie attend Halifax Town Meeting 2019 (photo: Linda Lyon)

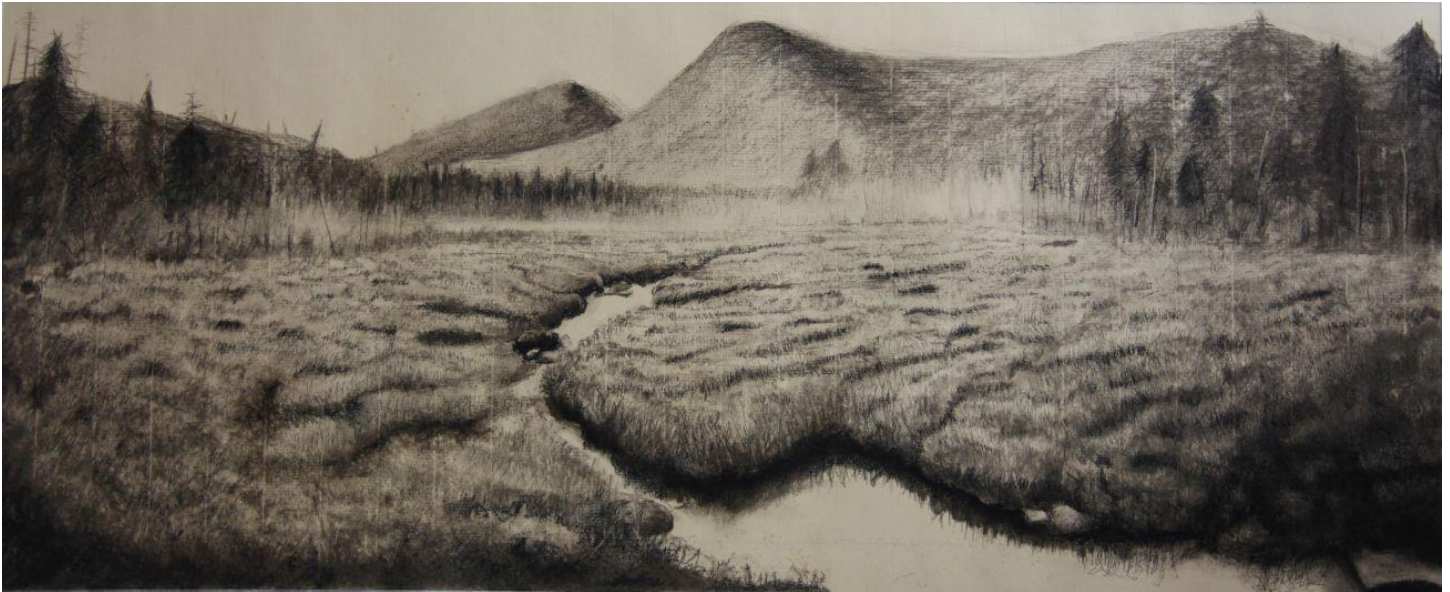
TOWN NEWS

HISTORY... GLEANED FROM A NOVEMBER 1985 HALIFAX NEWSLETTER.....

Clocks were unknown to the early settlers, but they had their hour glasses brought from their old hometowns and sundials on their cabin windowsills. There is at least one sundial in Halifax. Years ago, the grand Army owned a hall in West Halifax that they used for their meetings (the hall is now long gone). It was also the meeting place of the Odd Fellows, and once it was the quarters for the "Know Nothings". The Know Nothings were a political party organized in 1852, more correctly known as the "American Party," whose objective was to place in office only those Americans whose ancestry dated from the first [European] comers. Because members feared a foreigner might learn something—anything—about the precepts of their order, they often denied any knowledge at all, hence their nickname. Halifax citizens were firm adherents of this American Party. The only secret order in town at present is the Grange.

– Written by Edie Fenton in 1985

LOCAL ARTIST JUNIPER KOZLOWSKI



Juniper Kozlowski is an artist and conservation biologist living in Halifax Center. She recently launched a new ETSY page to showcase her work. Her drawing of wetlands above is an example of how her art merges with her love of the natural world. On the ETSY webpage people can purchase Prints, Original Drawings, copies of her book, *The Illustrated Ecology of Edible and Medicinal Wetland Plants of Vermont*, as well as original drawings from the book. I hope you will pass this link on to fellow plant lovers and friends. New drawings are being added all the time so check back frequently. Juniper also accepts commissions for pet portraits, house portraits, landscapes and other subjects although she does not draw people—at least, not yet.

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/JuniperKozlowskiArt>



WILDLIFE INFORMATION—TOWN OF HALIFAX

This is something Edie Fenton wrote in a 1985 newsletter. I hope you find it interesting. – Joan Courser

Species other than deer also inhabit the township. Fisher, beaver, otter, bobcat, bear, grouse, snowshoe hare, woodcock and waterfowl live here. Wetland boundaries should not be considered absolute. Instead, they may change from time to time depending on such factors as time of year, precipitation received, geological processes (erosion, sedimentation, etc.), beaver activity, and human alterations. Benefits associated with wetlands vary according to their type. It can be generally stated, however, that a few common values include wildlife, nutrients, trapping, and fire suppression. As the steward for management and conservation of the state's wildlife resources, the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife is concerned with the protection of wetlands for their wildlife values. Wetland areas provide habitat for a variety of animal species. Many avian inhabitants (ducks, geese, rails, herons, as well as numerous shorebirds, songbirds and birds of prey) rely on wetlands for nesting, brood rearing, and migration rest areas. Wetlands are also essential habitat for muskrat, beaver, otter, mink, raccoon, numerous fish species, reptiles, amphibians, and a diversity of invertebrate fauna. *(Taken from an information sheet put out by the Agency of Environmental Conservation)*

– Written by Edie Fenton in 1985

In that same 1985 newsletter under Sightings, Edie wrote: "...one great thrill with a Chickadee....Joan walked over to the chickadee, bent down to talk to it, and was delighted when it jumped up on her knee and then onto her shoulder before it flew away." Wild, huh!

JOAN'S SIGHTINGS.

The winter birds are invading the feeders...that makes me happy. I don't really see any 'new' birds, but the number of birds has increased. I am happy to be able to report that I now have TWO Red-breasted Nuthatches! Lots of Chickadees, two White-breasted Nuthatch. Many, many Blue jays, a Downy Woodpecker, a Hairy Woodpecker, I did see a Red-breasted Woodpecker but not recently. I still enjoy seeing the Cardinals. This does not seem to be a year for Goldfinch or Purple Finch. I have a couple of Titmice, a few Evening Grosbeak. I miss the loud pounding of the Pileated Woodpecker that usually is across the road. I have a few Sparrows. I saw a small flock of wild turkeys going into a residence on Brook Road. I enjoy seeing all the different birds. I was surprised to see two Wood Ducks on a small pool of water after the day of hard rain down back of the barn at my place. I am now reporting what I have at the feeders to Projects Feeder Watch. I am seeing fox tracks down back and around my chicken coop: that I don't like!!! I like the fox but not if he eats my chickens!!!!

A HAPPY HEALTHY 2021 TO YOU ALL!

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

- Joan Courser

Our visitors include deer, crows, blue jays, shrews, barred owls, and red foxes. At left is a photo of a barred owl pretending to be part of a pine tree. Can you spot it? We listen to the chickadees and nuthatches. I think a mouse is living in our garage where the cats cannot get it. - Laurel Copeland



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Nov. 26 eleven men and one truck responded to Stowe Mountain Road for smoke in a building.

Nov. 27 two trucks and eight men responded to a chimney fire on McMillan.

Nov. 27 firemen were called to a residence on Thomas Hill Road 12 times. A fireman living nearby took care of most of the calls.

Nov. 30 two men responded to an alarm sounding at Halifax Falls.

Dec. 2 six men responded to a vehicle that had been running all night and into the morning. Unfortunately, it was a suicide.

Dec. 5 nine men and one truck responded to a vehicle crash on Route 112.

Dec. 6 men responded to a tree in the road on Route 112 near Stowe Mountain Road.

Dec. 19 six men and one truck responded to an alarm sounding at a residence on Jacksonville Stage Road. A fireman living nearby arrived first and turned back the truck and firemen.

Support our fire department! The firemen still have their monthly 50/50 raffle. Tickets are available by calling Wayne at 368-7733 or any fireman. Tickets are \$ 10.00 a month.

SENIOR MEAL

Friday, January 15 is the next meal in West Halifax at the Community Hall located at 20 Brook Road. Again it is take-out only. The menu is corn chowder, johnny cake (corn bread) and a dessert. The meals may be picked up from 11 AM to 1 PM. Please call Joan at 802.368.7733 so she has some idea of how many meals to prepare.

– *Joan Courser*



Last Full Moon of the Year Rising on Dec. 29, 2020

Newsletter
P O Box 27
West Halifax VT 05358



December alternated between snowy
and rainy, icy and warm



Great Barred Owl

Halifax News

JANUARY 2021

**Subscriptions for Paper Newsletter by
US Mail:** \$7 per year to cover postage
and labels; write checks to “Newsletter”
and send to P O Box 27, West Halifax
VT 05358.

Thank you!!!

NEWSLETTER - Send your Halifax story
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