

December 2022

HALIFAX NEWS

MUSINGS ON NAMES

Laurel Copeland with Constance Lancaster, Vermont

Last month, while considering the few roads in Halifax that are not named after persons, I wondered why anyone would name a road Sodom. Our good neighbor Pam Baker, who lives on Sodom Road, was ready with the answer.

“Using the name ‘Sodom’ in a road or town comes from colonial times. Indeed, all New England states but New Hampshire and Rhode Island have a town named Sodom. Or did at one time. The village of Adamant in Calais, VT was originally called Sodom. Then there's Sodom, CT, near North Canaan. While there currently isn't a town in Massachusetts with that name, there is a mountain and a campground in Southwick, MA, named Sodom Mountain. There is also a town in Maine named Sodom. And other places in the country too. And there are many, many roads named Sodom throughout the country.

These days, most people are unfamiliar with the story or even the pejorative term. It has passed out of common usage.” – Pam Baker, Halifax, VT.

Sodom was one of the five cities of the plain (Genesis 13:12), and it had a reputation for wickedness; for this, it was destroyed by a rain of sulfur and fire. Naming a place Sodom was intended to remind settlers to be good.

An internet search for towns in USA named Sodom yielded this list:

United States

- Sodom, Kentucky, a ghost town.
- Sodom, New York, a hamlet.
- Sodom, Ohio, an unincorporated community.
- Sodom, West Virginia, an unincorporated community.
- Adamant, Vermont or Sodom.
- Revere, North Carolina or Sodom.
- Sodom, a community within North Canaan, Connecticut.

A site named geotarget.com added places in Europe and Asia:

Cities named Sodom in Russian Federation.

Sodom - Saratov

Sodom - Kirov

Cities named Sodom in Sweden.

Sodom - Vasternorrlands Lan

Cities named Sodom in Israel.

Sodom - HaDarom

So there you have it.



I also wondered what was being built on the property of Martin Hall's shack on Hatch School Road. We can now see a new house taking shape on the back of the lot, facing the road at a jaunty angle.

TOWN NEWS

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR, 9AM-4PM ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022 – Don't miss this event! Town Clerk Office, 246 Branch Rd, West Halifax, VT. Lunch will be available! And some very special dolls!!



Happy Holidays

HALIFAX HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

December 3, 2022

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Halifax Elementary School

Multi-purpose room

**Get some last-minute holiday shopping done
with our LOCAL ARTISANS !!!**

Come for lunch!!

**3 different kinds of Hot Soup
Grilled Cheese with or without ham
Hot Cocoa, Coffee and Cookies**

COLLECTORS' DOLLS. Elaine Fairbanks was a founding member of the Halifax Historical Society and devoted many years to preserving and publishing Halifax history. Recently, the HHS found in storage a gift of Madame Alexander dolls from Elaine to be sold to benefit the Society. The dolls are in their original boxes with tags and in perfect condition. Some will be offered at the Christmas craft fair on December 3rd.

1. 14-inch Emily Dickenson 1587, Madame Alexander
2. 12-inch Sweet Baby 3620, Madame Alexander
3. 7-inch Red Boy from Little Women series, Madame Alexander
4. 7-inch Jill 456, Madame Alexander
5. 8-inch Ideal Shirley Temple Collector Doll

Please contact Andrea Rand for further information (claylady221@gmail.com, 802-368-7157).



HOLIDAYS -- The Christmas candlelight service at West Halifax Bible Church, 137 Branch Road, is December 18th at 6:30 PM. All are welcome. It is a special night. The children will put on a play, and there will be lots of Christmas carols sung by all. Hope to see you there! – *Joan Courser*

SENIOR MEAL IN HALIFAX – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 12:00 NOON

The December meal is Friday the 16th served at noon at the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax, Vermont. The menu: ham, potatoes, vegetable, rolls and dessert. All seniors are welcome. For those age 60 and over, there is a free-will fee of \$3.00. For those under 60, it is \$4.00. A call to Joan is appreciated (802-368-7733). – *Joan Courser*

JOAN'S SIGHTINGS. Some of the winter birds are arriving. I have several Evening Grosbeaks, male and female. Still enjoying two pairs of Cardinals. My visiting Rufus-Sided Towhee fueled up for an entire afternoon then was not seen again (but I was excited to have it here). I have Blue Jays but not so many as most years (still *too* many...they clean up the food quickly). But they are a pretty bird. An assortment of Sparrows, Chickadees, and Titmice also visit. – *Joan Courser*

Elsewhere Around Town Up on Hanson Road we see grey foxes, whitetail deer, red squirrels, grey squirrels, mice, pileated woodpeckers, crows, ravens, the broad-winged hawk, chickadees, juncos, and white-throated sparrows. I hear the high-pitched chirping of golden-crowned kinglets. Oddly, a confused moth flutters by from time to time. Patrick saw a Northern Goshawk. It sped out of the forest and attacked a squirrel, which eluded it. Then the 2-foot tall bird sat on the stone wall for a bit before disappearing again. A rare sight around here! A photo appears on the next page. – *Laurel Copeland*

Photograph of adult Northern Goshawk by Frank King, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Goshawk/photo-gallery/306058781



I hope you caught the lunar eclipse on November 8th. The eclipse was complete from about 5:15 am to sun-up. A photo I took on Collins Road is at right.

And our first snowfall up here on Hanson Road was November 16, 2022. We shall soon see more of that! Meanwhile, snow tires and slow speeds will be in order. And remember that the speed limit is not about you—it's about everything else out there.



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS.

November 1, four men responded to a medical call. The person did not realize they had activated their lifeline alarm.

November 3, one fireman responded to a medical call on Wheeler Road; the person was transported by ambulance.

November 3, 10 men responded to a brush fire on Stark Mountain Road. No permit had been issued for this burn. About 3/4 of an acre burned.

November 12, 11 men and one truck responded to Route 112 for a motor vehicle accident. An ambulance also responded, but there was no transport.

November 12, two firemen responded to Stage Road for a woman passed out. Deerfield Valley Ambulance responded but did not transport.

November 14, six men responded to old County Road for a CO alarm sounding; they found high levels in the basement and garage; areas were vented by the firemen.

November 19, four men and an ambulance responded to Hanson Road for a possible untimely death; they waited for the State police to arrive who confirmed the death.

November 23, five men and the ambulance went to Hatch School Road; there was no transport.

November 25, four men responded to a call on Old Stage Road; it was an untimely death. Police were called.

**Remember to call the Fire Department BEFORE you burn brush!
Call Wayne (802) 368-7733 or Malcolm (802) 368-2484**

Emergency services — call 911

New Suicide & Crisis Lifeline — call 988

Veterans Crisis line — call 988 then press 1, or you can text 838255



WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

HAVE YOU SEEN ANY OF THESE 5 ANIMALS CROSSING A ROAD?

As part of a wildlife connectivity project, I am interested in where five wide-ranging mammals cross the road. 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). Include **date, time, & location.** The 5 animals are **Moose** (tracks #9), **Bobcat** (tracks #7), **River Otter** (tracks #23), **Fisher** (photo with ruler), and **Black Bear** (tracks #35).*



Newsletter
P O Box 27
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Was this really less than a
month ago?

Halifax News

DECEMBER 2022

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LaurelACopeland@gmail.com or
Joan JWCinVt@gmail.com
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November Sunrise