

October 2022

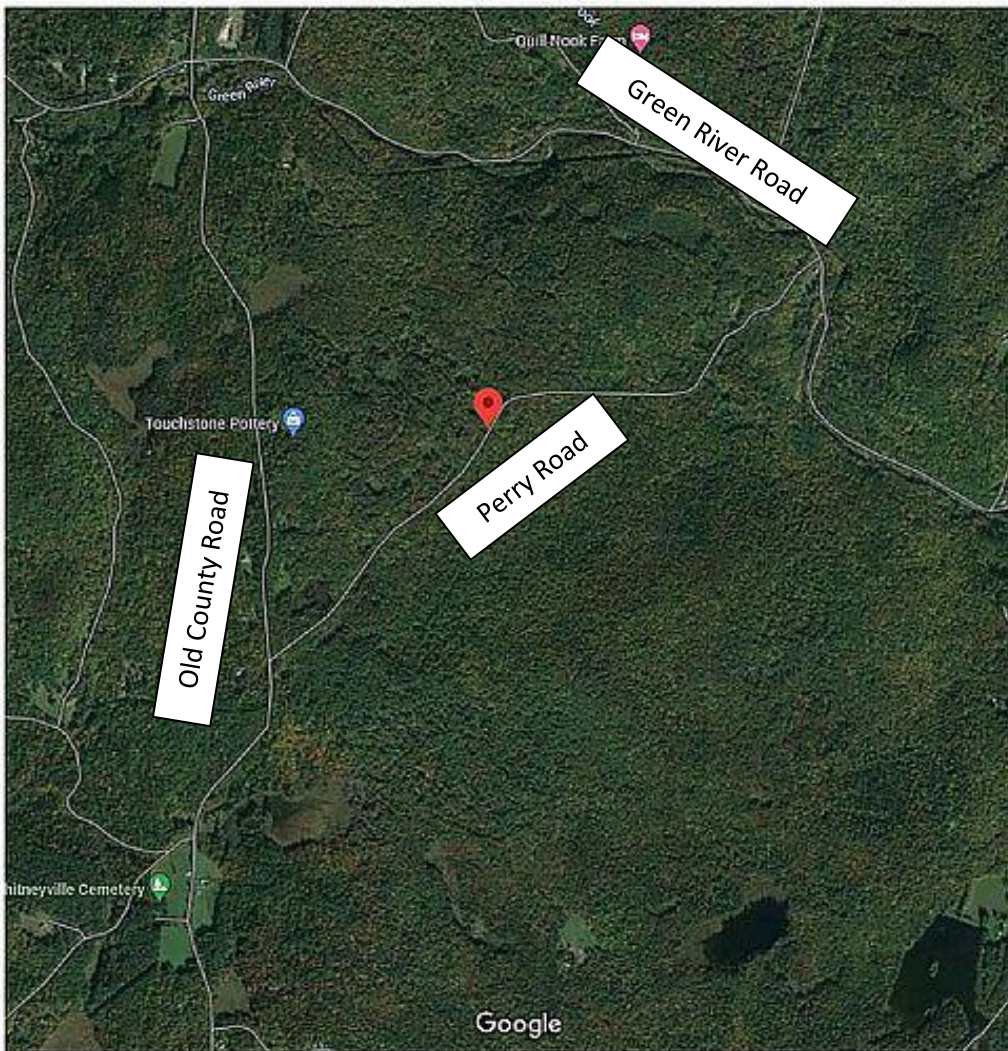
HALIFAX NEWS

FALL IN HALIFAX

Laurel Copeland with Constance Lancaster, Vermont

The Halifax Historical Society (HHS) hike to visit the Otis homestead on Perry Road was a wonderful adventure. On Saturday September 3rd, a large group of us met in West Halifax. Then the HHS led us up to Halifax Center, up Old County Road, and out Perry Road to a spot in the woods where we parked. This spot is approximately where Perry Road loses out to a swampy area for a stretch. From there we hiked. The Otis homestead was the birthplace of Elisha Otis, inventor of the elevator safety brake that led to the use of elevators for people not just freight, and thence to the development of skyscrapers. Carol Otis, of the Otis family, attended the HHS hike as did the current property owners, Pete and Christine, along with a couple dozen enthusiasts. Connie Lancaster spoke of the history of the site and family while Andrea Rand talked about the geology of the location. This part of Perry Road is between its navigable ends, the north end coming off Green River Road in Halifax while the south end comes off Old County Road up on Ballou Mountain, near where the Halifax Clam Bake is held. As explained in the past couple of newsletters, hiking in from Green River Road is impracticable, but hiking down from the top of Perry Road was easy.

Google Maps Perry Rd



Imagery ©2022 CNES / Airbus, Maxar Technologies, USDA/FPAC/GEO, Map data ©2022 1000 ft

Connie Lancaster writes: By way of a follow-up to the hike to the Otis birthplace, here's a tidbit to add to the story. Some of the hikers asked how Perry Road got its name, and I researched it later. The 1880 census locates William F. Perry, age 25, wife Sarah [Dalrymple], age 22, at the corner of the road connecting Green River and County Roads "Willie," as he was known, died at age 45 from a heart attack in 1899 and was buried in the Halifax Center Cemetery. His widow raised their daughter, Eva, and sons, Arthur, Charles and Clarence. She died in 1928 and is buried next to her husband in Halifax. It seems likely the road was named for that family. – C.L., HHS

I like to think that nearby Tucker Road owes a debt to this ditty our friend, Schubert Jonas used to belt out:

Supper's over
Dinner's cookin'
Old Dan Tucker just
stands there lookin'!!

Schubert was more of an artist than a poet.

TOWN NEWS

HALIFAX CELEBRATION DAY – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, ALL DAY LONG!

Halifax Celebration will be on Saturday, October 1, 2022. Activities include Ritchie Mitnik and Ethel Lee performing 50's & 60's music at 12 noon, and a Chili Contest with great prizes—enter early! Hayrides, softball, children's games during the day. Boom Box Band playing at the fire Station at 8:00 pm!

Scarecrow Contest on Celebration Day: This contest will be judged by the Halifax Elementary Students. Winners will be displayed during the Celebration. You will also be able to make your own scarecrow during the Celebration Day.

SENIOR MEAL IN HALIFAX – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21 AT 12:00 NOON

The next Senior Meal in Halifax will be Friday, October 21, serving at noon at the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax, Vermont. Menu: fruit cup first, beef stew with potato and vegetables in it, rolls and dessert. Coffee, iced tea, or water. A free-will donation of \$3.00 is asked but not mandatory. For those under 60 years of age, cost is \$4.00. A call to Joan is appreciated 802-368-7733. All seniors are welcome.

SORROW

It is with much sadness I tell of the passing of a dear friend and neighbor, Rick Mirucki, who passed away on September 21, 2022 at age 79. He and his late wife Dorie lived in the place just across the parking lot of the Community Hall. I spent many good times just visiting on his front porch. He was an 11-year member of the Halifax Fire Department and a wonderful addition to the town. He is very much missed. Condolences to his family.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS.

September 5, two men responded to a medical call on Sprague Road. No transport was needed.

September 14, four men responded to a call of a wire down on Hale Road; no fire developed.

September 18, two responded to a call on Hatch School Road for a medical call of a bandage leaking.

Ambulance personnel redid the bandage

September 18, Halifax was called to 'cover' the Marlboro station; turned back en route.

September 21, a call on Hatch School Road for low blood pressure. It was retaken and had resolved.

September 24, four men responded to Hubbard Hill Road for a woman not feeling well. Whitingham ambulance was out on a call, so Colrain ambulance transported to Brattleboro hospital.

September 26, 16 men responded to a call of smoke in the Hale Road area. Someone was cooking behind the house. Halifax, Marlboro, Guilford, Whitingham, Wilmington, and Rescue Inc were all turned back.

Remember to call the Fire Department BEFORE you burn brush: 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

JOAN'S SIGHTINGS.

A huge life thrill: having a Ruffed Grouse in my arms at the bird-banding station on Hogback Mountain!!!! I just love going there whenever I can. I have learned so much from Eric, the leader; he has so very much knowledge of birds, and I have met lots of nice people.

In the Village: Many wild turkeys are being seen by lots of folks. That will end the first of November when turkey season starts....it is so strange....they seem to sense it and disappear! I love seeing them.



When I first came to town 44 years ago, there were none here. One snowy winter they came here and ate birdseed under my feeders; I really thought that was great! Wayne has seen a few deer. We had a large Hawk here (eyeing the chickens), and we also had a large ground hog. He built his den under a part of our barn where we store things. It is a huge mound of dirt he dug up and packed down. He should be warm this winter. No sightings of bear have been reported to me since August. (Perhaps they know it's bear hunting season.) Some of my birds have headed to warmer climates. I miss the Hummingbirds, still have two pairs of Cardinals, a few Chickadees, a few Sparrows, a couple of Woodpeckers—a Hairy and a Downy. I think they are having 'withdrawal' from the sweet hummingbird feeder which I put away until Spring. Have a few Mourning Doves, a Catbird now and then, a Red-breasted Nuthatch and a White-Breasted one. Still have a few Goldfinches, some still quite yellow, Titmice, and lots and lots of Blue Jays.

- Joan Courser

Elsewhere Around Town. One morning in early September up on Hanson Road, a skunk came to eat some stale popcorn I'd tossed out. Then a young grey fox came along. The skunk jumped toward the fox a couple of times and showed him his business end. The fox withdrew. Some days later, a second, smaller skunk visited, but both the fox and the popcorn were long gone.

We see three different grey foxes. The two little ones chase each other. There are lots of sparrows, juncos, chickadees, flickers, blue jays, crows, and turkeys up here, as well as a few warblers (common yellowthroat) and at night some really noisy barred owls. The broad-shouldered hawk is hunting, too. Occasionally we see the little rodents that keep the foxes and raptors busy. There are lots of chipmunks, red squirrels, and grey squirrels. And a really big Yellow Garden Spider (pictured). One day, a lovely large but still spotted fawn wandered through the yard, and a little while later an elegant fox passed through. Honestly, it's difficult to have a serious Zoom call some days. Watching the parade of wildlife is so much more interesting.

- Laurel Copeland

Fox versus Skunk

Skunk Wins



VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN VERMONT. About 88% of Vermont fire departments are made up entirely of volunteers. About 67% of firefighters across the United States were volunteers. Our firefighters – both volunteer and career – put their lives on the line to protect our communities, and all of us very much appreciate what they do for us. If you're interested in getting involved with your local fire department, please call 802-483-2755 or visit your local fire department to learn more. Young persons 14 through 17 years old can learn about the statewide **VSFA Fire Cadet Academy** hosted by the Vermont State Firefighters Association in Pittsford, Vermont here: <https://www.vtfirefighters.org/cadet-academy.html>



BIRD-BANDING resumed on Hogback Mountain in September, as ornithologist Eric Slayton wraps up his 3-year, 6-season enrichment project. In the bird-banding project, we set up fine mist nets in the woods, which we open at daybreak, then check every half hour, until we close up at 10 or 11. When a bird is caught in a net, Eric extracts it carefully. He is trained and licensed to do this. Then each bird is put in a linen sack to be carried back to the base station for banding, measurement, identification, and release. Volunteers get to carry birds and release them, although only Eric handles the birds in between. Aside from Joan's grouse, we have caught many songbirds: Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Black-Throated Blue Warbler, Black-Throated Green Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Bay-Breasted Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Northern Parula, and Ruby-Crowned Kinglet among others. We also netted blue jays and a hairy woodpecker! One day middle schoolers from Marlboro joined us. Photos taken that day show a Blue-Headed Vireo (sex unknown) and schoolkids waiting for a blue jay to take off.



SENIOR SOLUTIONS: Please spread the word: it's time to sign up for Vermont's **Seasonal Heating Fuel Assistance Program**. Seasonal Fuel Assistance can offset winter heating costs by anywhere from a few hundred to even a few thousand dollars. Let Senior Solutions help you apply through Vermont's LIHEAP program. The program could help lower your bills if you heat with oil, kerosene, propane, electric, coal, wood pellets, or wood. **Apply now! Don't wait.** This program is income and household-size based. If your income is at or below these levels, regardless of other things you own, you qualify:

- Household of 1 – 2,096/month
- Household of 2 – 2,823/month
- Household of 3 – 3,550/month
- Household of 4 – 4,279/month

Call the Senior Solutions HelpLine at 802-885-2669, or drop by the old firehouse at 18 Beaver Street in Wilmington any 2nd or 4th Thursday from 11 am to 1 pm, or email Thom Simmons at TSimmons@seniorsolutionsvt.org, to obtain an application or receive assistance making application over the phone, while you are still entitled to full seasonal benefits.

STRANGE NEWS. A friend in San Francisco writes, “Robotic apple picking drones hover in the orchards all day and all night. I watched a video and was appalled that the drones dropped the apples into a box – I don't want my apples dropped, even if only an inch. Robotic strawberry picking is a problem. The autopickers touch only the stems so the berries are not bruised, but for marketing the strawberries are best placed in boxes with the stems down – hard to do. Robot pepper harvesters grab the pepper then snip the stem. I find that scary. Automated picking of iceberg lettuce is apparently difficult, but under development.”

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
West Halifax VT 05358



Old Logging Truck off Perry Road, Still
Loaded But Not Ready To Go



Sunrise mid-September

Halifax News

OCTOBER 2022

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