December 2023 HALIFAX NEWS

- Laurel Copeland with Joanne Bourbeau

A few weeks ago I was walking with our tree warden, Sue Kelly, DVM, and Ruth Hart, wildlife rehabilitator, on Hogback. We were checking on two vernal pools I monitor as a citizen scientist with Vermont Center for Ecostudies. We got to talking about VDART, the Disaster Animal Response Team in Vermont that takes care of pets during a disaster response. VDART had been activated during the July 2023 floods. Sue commented that many people did not know that their household pets would be taken care of if they had to evacuate their home. So I drafted the article below then contacted Joanne Bourbeau, northeast regional director for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), to round out the piece. We hope you find it informative. The photos at the beginning of the article are Halifax pets. Those within the article are VDART photos from this past July.



What Happens to My Pets If I Have to Evacuate My Home in a Disaster?

Flooding this summer proved disastrous for many Vermonters as homes and businesses were rendered unusable by the floodwaters. Household pets were additional victims of the rising water. While the Red Cross helps people displaced by an emergency, the Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team (VDART) will take care of their companion animals.

VDART deployed in July during the horrific floods in central and northern Vermont. They set up a shelter for pets next to a Red Cross shelter for people. Providing for the evacuation and care of people's pets is a required part of national emergency response efforts under current FEMA rules, as revised after Hurricane Katrina (Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of

2006).



In July, VDART set up a pet shelter in Barre, VT, and



volunteers racked up more than 1,700 hours during the 26-day shelter response. VDART's actions were the topic of a WCAX report on July 18, 2023. You can read about the experience of volunteers here: <u>https://www.wcax.com/2023/07/18/volunteers-help-care-pets-vermonters-displaced-by-flooding/</u>

VDART would love to have you on call for animal care during emergencies. The regional team that serves our area, the Windham Disaster Animal Response Team (WinDART), is looking for veterinary and animal care professionals, but also business owners and animal lovers of all types to volunteer. WinDART holds regular meetings and provides free training opportunities to ensure that our volunteers are ready to set up and operate temporary pet shelters. You can fill out a volunteer application at this link: <u>http://www.VermontDART.org</u>.



Pump Logs in New England

– Laurel Copeland, Halifax, Vermont

Wayne Courser recently suggested I write up the story of pump logs. Pump logs are wooden water pipes made from tree trunks. He showed me a wonderful book he and Joan have called <u>Vermonters: Oral Histories from</u> <u>Down Country to the Northeast Kingdom</u> by Ron Strickland (© 1986 Chronicle Books). As soon as I got home, I wrote for permission to reproduce the story called "Pump Logs" as told by Orien Dunn of Granby, Vermont. The cheery publisher, Chronicle Books, of San Francisco, CA, <u>https://www.chroniclebooks.com/</u>, responded that my request would be addressed in 4-8 weeks.

While waiting for this permission process to unfold, I decided to write about pump logs. I first heard of them from Tim Hamilton (1948-2022), who was an artist with an earthmover when he excavated my road and cellar in 2014-2015. Tim told me that while building my driveway, he began digging a side hole for a culvert when his backhoe hit a gusher. Muddy water spurted 5-6 feet into the air! He had inadvertently discovered a pump log, angling underground from the springs in the woods over to the apple orchard near the road. He covered up the log and dug elsewhere, leaving a depression by my driveway. The residual pool measures about 6 feet by 10 feet and holds water sufficiently to support wood frogs. It's a manmade vernal pool!



Pump logs were made in New England to pipe water underground. They were bored from tamarack (per <u>http://www.waterworkshistory.us/NH/Lancaster/</u>), cedar, or balsam fir trees (per Orien Dunn). Orien Dunn described them as being bored with an iron auger from 8-foot lengths which were then fitted together to span the necessary distance. Other authors note 10-foot and 12-foot lengths, as described in this article from the Adirondack Almanac, https://www.adirondackalmanack.com/2016/08/old-wooden-

<u>water-pipes-uncovered.html</u>. The Vermont Journal describes how pump logs were made in pairs, one log being 8 feet long and the other 9 feet (<u>https://vermontjournal.com/featured-</u> articles/water-pipe-history/). When the end of one was shaped

to fit into the end of the other and they were joined, the pair was 16 1/2 feet long, or one rod. At left is a picture from <u>https://www.hiddenhydrology.org/the-water-in-the-wood/</u> of how the pair were joined. We still measure our road width in rods; most of our roads are 3-rod roads, or 49.5 feet wide. Most state highways are built on a 3-rod right of way. For what it's worth, four rods, or 66 feet, are called a "chain", and 80 chains, or 5,280 feet, make a 1 mile.

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Talk with the Principal

Sandra Pentak-Cohen came to the Halifax Café on Saturday, November 11th, and talked with us about Halifax Elementary School. The school has 71 students this academic year; it is structured so that Kindergarten is a class, then grades 1/2, grades 3/4, grades 5/6, and grades 7/8. This structure is used for all core subjects except math where the math teacher works with each grade separately.

Sandy talked enthusiastically about the great team she has with her teachers and staff. Halifax Elementary is lucky to have such an energetic and generous group teaching the children. By all accounts, they work well together and help each other through staff shortages with all hands on deck. It's an admirable model that serves the children well. Although funding is always tight, all children have iPads to use for their studies and reading in addition to reading library books. Combined with the school website, iPads help children staying home for illness keep up. They also let a child show their work to the teacher and classmates.

The group gathering in the Café that day was small but engaged and full of questions. They sipped tea and coffee and snacked on gluten-free spice cookies, blueberry and apple turnovers, pumpkin bread, and chocolate chip cookies. It was a pleasant way to pass a couple of hours on a Saturday.



HALIFAX HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Come to the Craft Fair on **Saturday, December 2 from 9am - 4pm**. A wonderful assortment of locally made items including the HHS Halifax 2024 Calendar will be available in the **Halifax School** multipurpose room, 246 Branch Road, West Halifax. Lunch will be available; proceeds from lunch sales will benefit the Halifax Historical Society. Come and get your holiday shopping done with friends!!

SENIOR MEAL IN HALIFAX – December 15th is the next senior meal in Halifax serving at 12 noon at the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax. Menu: Baked ham, scalloped potato, vegetable, and a dessert. All seniors are welcome. Free-will donation of \$3.00 is asked for age 60 years and up, \$4.00 for under age of 60. Hope to see you there. A call to Joan is appreciated 802-368-7733. – *Joan Courser*

JOAN'S SIGHTINGS. The snow brought some more birds: two pairs of Cardinals, a couple of Chickadees, lots of Blue Jays, some Juncos, lots of small Sparrows, a few Mourning Doves, a couple of Woodpeckers, a Blackbird now and then, a few Titmice, plus a Purple Finch, and a Goldfinch, I enjoy all the birds that visit my feeders but



sure do miss the larger number I used to have!

ELSEWHERE AROUND TOWN. Up on Hanson Road we see grey foxes, chipmunks, deer, a mouse jumping around in the snow (see pic), Canada geese, ravens, crows, broad-winged hawk, barred owl, pileated woodpeckers, blue jays, chickadees, golden-crowned kinglets, and a few small moths.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

October 31 three men responded to a medical call on Reed Hill Road.

October 31 twelve men and two trucks responded to Marlboro; all were turned back en route.

November 3 nine men and two trucks responded to a call, sending one truck to the scene and one to 'cover' the Marlboro station.

November 13 two men went to a rescue call on Hatch School Road.

November 14 five men and one truck responded to a CO detector sounding at a residence on Old Stage Road.

November 20 two men responded to a residence on Collins Road for a man experiencing leg problems. He was transported to Brattleboro hospital. Our men assisted him into the ambulance.

November 21 five men responded to a residence on Brook Road. They examined the patient, assisted with splinting and lifting, and helped get her into the ambulance.

November 22 one fireman assisted a patient on Hatch School Road who fell out of bed and hit their head on a radiator causing a laceration. The patient was bandaged and turned over to Deerfield Valley Rescue.

November 27 seven men and two trucks responded to a mutual aid call to Guilford for a house fire.

Burn Permits are Required - call before you burn. Dennis (802) 368-7809 or Malcolm (802) 368-2484

OTIS FAMILY. Carol Otis, our host for the Otis Family weekend September 8 & 9 last summer, arranged for several Halifax residents to receive DAR America 250 recognition. DAR America 250 celebrates the 250th or sestercentennial anniversary of the establishment of the United States in 1776. Markers for Revolutionary War Veterans are being distributed (<u>https://blog.dar.org/introducing-new-dar-america-250-patriots-marker</u>). Carol Otis reiterated her profound thanks to all who helped prepare Whitneyville Cemetery and West Halifax for the Otis Weekend.





HALIFAX HISTORICAL SOCIETY., Tristan Roberts hosted a fundraiser for the Halifax Historical Society at his Quill Nook Farm. One of the highlights was seeing the carefully piled-up cairns of stones that were there when he acquired the property. These are possibly from unusually tidy farmers or communally? spiritually? motivated indigenous people. Tristan showed us stone walls, cellar holes, and a spring. Another highlight was when Tristan gathered us around a

certain stone, about 16"x24"x8", and described lifting it to reuse in a stone staircase. We gasped in surprise as the 8-foot well was revealed! He didn't use it for a staircase after all. The stone remains, covering this old water source. In the photo, you can see the glimmer of water at the bottom of the well shaft.



The new year is coming, and the Halifax Historical Society has assembled photos of Halifax into a **2024 Halifax Calendar**. The calendars will be for sale at the Halifax Craft Fair for **\$15**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the HHS at <u>HalifaxVtHistorialSociety@gmail.com</u>. See you at the School on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 am to 4 pm!



Sunset in late November



A Christmas tree in the woods

November's full moon rises behind a dark cloud (left) while Jupiter shines through a high, white cloud (upper right)

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Halifax News

DECEMBER 2023

CALENDAR Nov. 30 (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Dec. 2 (Saturday): Halifax Holiday Craft Fair at the School (9:00 AM to 4:00 PM) Dec. 2 (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Dec. 2 (Saturday): 2:00-5:00 pm: Wrap Fest! Free wrapping paper and fun in the Hall, Shop at the Halifax Holiday Craft Fair at the school (9 AM to 4 PM) then come to the Hall to wrap your gifts (2 to 5 PM)! Bring your holiday spirit. Snacks available. Halifax Café open 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Dec. 7 (Thursday): Dec. 9 (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am - 2:00 pm **Extended Hours for Soup** Soup Saturday! Support Halifax Cemeteries. Serving until 2:00 PM Dec. 9 (Saturday): Dec. 14 (Thursday): GMP on Grid Reliability 10:30 to 11:30 AM Dec. 16 (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Dec. 16 (Saturday): Talk with the Sheriff, Mark Anderson 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM). Dec. 17, 2023, through Jan. 5, 2024: Café closed for the holidays. Jan. 6, 2024 (Saturday): Halifax Café reopens, open 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

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- Happening This Weekend! -



