

September 2023

HALIFAX NEWS

NEW IN TOWN

– Diana Conway, Halifax, Vermont

The Halifax Community Hall is located at the village crossroads in West Halifax and is home to the new Halifax Café. Surprising exchanges are happening and promise to continue. Of course, the Community Hall has existed for decades. But the community café is new.

Back in March many residents of Halifax met at the school to discuss ways to encourage local connections and communication. Many valuable ideas were heard, but a popular one was finding a place where people could routinely cross paths. The idea of a Café at the Community Hall as a convenient meeting place was proposed by an individual. This summer it has proven to be very successful.

We hope to offer monthly programs in an effort to find ways to bring the community together in a multi-generational manner. Teaming up with the school brings even more possibilities of valuable activities as we go forward.

The more our community develops familiar connections, the easier it will be to address needs such as those resulting from severe weather or other emergencies.

At right is the Puzzle Table that Gary Rand made for the Café. It's a beauty! Thank you, Gary.



Come to the twice-weekly Café and share your thoughts on creating an even more sustainable and thriving community. See you at the crossroads of our future!

PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED!!!

The Halifax Historical Society will be creating a "2024 Halifax Calendar" as a fundraiser for the Historical Society. The idea for this calendar is to have pictures strictly from our beautiful town of Halifax.

We want to open the photography portion up to residents; therefore, we are asking you to submit photographs that will be judged for inclusion in the calendar. We will need photographs from every season, so photos from past years can also be submitted.

Guidelines for the photographs:

1. Must be of a site, house, barn, view, etc., located in Halifax. Please add the location of the photo when submitting your photograph.
2. No pictures of people without their consent in writing.
3. Photographs will be made into 8.5 x 10 pictures - therefore we need high resolution photos, so pictures are not blurry when blown up.
4. Photographs must be your own; no professional pictures or copyrighted photos.
5. Amateur photographers only.
6. All photographs published in the Halifax Calendar are the property of the Halifax Historical Society.
7. Photographs can be current or from previous years.

Photographs should be emailed to halifaxvthistoricalociety@gmail.com no later than September 30, 2023. Please include your name, contact information and location of the photograph.

If you have any questions, please email us at HalifaxVtHistoricalsociety@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing your amazing photographs.

– Wendy Gerdes Musiak, HHS President

LOCAL TRAINING FOR LOCAL LEADERS: SOVT GET ON BOARD

Want to know how to make things happen in Halifax? Want to be more involved in the community? Already involved but want to know more about how things work? Join the **SoVT Get on Board** program this fall! **SoVT Get on Board** will give attendees practical skills to become effective and active participants in the civic life of their Southern Vermont community. Gain big-picture knowledge to inspire and inform, and most importantly, find connections to support you as a local leader. The Town of Halifax encourages all interested participants to apply today at www.sovermontzone.com/get-on-board! Classes are offered Wednesdays and Saturdays, October 2023 through January 2024; see website for details.

SoVT Get on Board is a program by Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation's Southern VT Economy Project, funded in part by USDA Rural Development and the Vermont Community Foundation.

– Meg Staloff, Southern Vermont Economy Project Manager

BEAVER NEWS. The **Halifax Beaver Working Group** (BWG-Halifax), a collaboration between the Halifax Conservation Commission and Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (<https://beec.org>), presented a wonderful seminar called “**A Beaver Year**” delivered by naturalist Patti Smith of Marlboro in the Halifax Community Hall on Saturday, July 29. About 30 people attended the talk which featured Patti’s personal tales of interacting with beavers, pictures and videos of beavers in their natural habitats, and a field trip (see photo).

The next event will be a talk on “**Beavers in Halifax**” in the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax, on Saturday, **September 23** at 1:00 PM.

Engineer and river scientist Dr. Denise Burchsted

studies natural river systems—the way rivers behaved before Europeans arrived. What she has learned will surprise you, and yes, beavers were an important part of the picture. What was the landscape and riverscape of Halifax like in the days before the fur trade? Dr. Burchsted has mapped the town and will share her conception of what Halifax was like. Are there problems caused by the way we manage streams today? What might a future look like that accommodates the needs of people and natural rivers?



This presentation is part of a grant-funded project and is sponsored by the Halifax Beaver Working Group and the Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center. Learn more at: <https://www.beec.org/halifax-beaver/>

SENIOR MEAL IN HALIFAX – The next Senior Meal in Halifax is September 15, serving at 12:00 noon in the Halifax Community Hall at 20 Brook Road, West Halifax. Menu: meatballs in sauce, potato, veggie, rolls and dessert. A free will donation of \$3.00 is asked for seniors 60 years of age or older; under 60 is \$4.00. Hope to see you there.

– Joan Courser

SoVT Get on Board

Learn how to make things work in your community

Learn practical skills to become an active & effective participant in the civic life of Southern Vermont!

Join the Southern VT Economy's Project's **SoVT Get on Board** program this fall!

sovermontzone.com/get-on-board

Application deadline: September 29!





YOUR HALIFAX NEWSLETTER

Although email is free, USPS postage is not. So, if you are receiving your newsletter by mail, please note that it is **renewal time!** Check your newsletter address label for your subscription expiration date.

Cost is \$7.00 to cover postage for your paper copy. **Send check made out to “Newsletter” to:**

**P O Box 27
West Halifax VT 05358**

HALIFAX HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEEDS A NEW ROOF. The Halifax Historical Society maintains the historic Plumb School building in the middle of West Halifax. They also curate a collection of historical artifacts relating to Halifax. But the old building badly needs a new roof. Please send contributions to: **Halifax Historical Society, P.O. Box 94, West Halifax, VT 05358.** For more information, contact the HHS at HalifaxVtHistoricalsociety@gmail.com.



FIRE DEPARTMENT.

July 28 one truck and Deerfield Valley Rescue responded to a motor vehicle crash on Jacksonville Stage Road.

July 30 one truck and 10 men responded to a motor vehicle crash on Green River Road.

July 31 three men responded to Thomas Hill for an ill female; Marlboro Rescue also responded; Rescue Inc. transported to Brattleboro Hospital.

August 9 two men responded to Reed Hill Road for an ill female; she was transported to Greenfield Hospital.

August 11 three men responded to Rte. 112 for a lifeline activation; the person did not know that they accidentally activated it; the person was fine.

August 11 four men and one truck responded to wires down and arcing on Old County Road. They stood by until Green Mountain Power arrived.

August 11 three men responded to Stowe Mountain Road for a female experiencing heavy swelling in the neck; she refused transport.

August 18 seven men and two trucks responded to Whitneyville Rd. for an alarm sounding. No smoke found; possibly the detector was faulty.

August 19 eight men responded to a call on Branch Road for a female with a possible broken leg. Members provided comfort and helped with lifting.

August 25 four men responded to Bucklin Hill Road. The ambulance was turned back; there was no transport.

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



A rainbow of eggs from Karma Goods on Old County Road!
Blatting Hills Farm on Collins Road also sells multi-hued eggs.
Enjoy local goods 😊

JOAN'S SIGHTINGS.

I seem to have lots and lots of birds which makes me very happy. I know lots will be migrating soon. I still have three or four Orioles enjoying a treat of grape jelly. I expect them to leave anytime soon. I will miss them—they are so beautiful! Several Mourning Doves, a variety of Sparrows, still enjoying the Hummingbirds—I will miss them too. They fly so far and are so small. I worry about them, but they will be fine, and I look forward to their return next year. One of my bird magazines said birds return to the same feeders each year. I often wondered about that.

I still have two pairs of Cardinals, a female and male, an Evening Grosbeak; it seems that the Red-breasted one has left. There are a few Goldfinches—some males still have their bright yellow feathers—and a few Juncos. I have not seen the Red-winged Blackbird lately, but I have seen the White-breasted Nuthatch, a Titmouse now

and then, very few Chickadees, a few Blue Jays, only a couple of Woodpeckers—a Hairy and a Downy. Wayne still sees wild Turkeys, and I saw four Hawks circling around. My chickens were nervous about that. A fox got one of my chickens (my oldest and favorite), and one died of natural causes, so I am down to only two chickens plus my little rooster which has some age on him. I am trying to decide if I want to get more chickens now or wait until spring. We saw a Groundhog at the fire station early one evening; haven't seen him lately. — Joan Courser

Elsewhere Around Town. Up on Hanson Road we are enjoying the noisy but magnificent piledated woodpeckers, deer, bats, grey foxes, Hedgewort the Woodchuck (or Whistlepig, as you may say), chipmunks and red squirrels, a red-bellied snake (pic), crows and ravens, blue jays and dragonflies and butterflies. We hear the coyotes yipping and howling up the VAST trail at night—what a great sound! One night they passed right below our windows. They were really loud.



Then the other day, our neighbor Miranda was swimming in my mom's pond when an otter popped up beside her! That's a first for that pond.



In the photo, you see who is King of The Yard at our house! We call this one Timmy the Fox.

Although I first saw a Viceroy back in June, it was not until August 20 that I spotted a Monarch. Happily, I am still seeing the Viceroy's (extra bar across lower wings), and a lot of Swallowtails, Blue Admirals, and Fritillaries as well as those little guys that dance around the ground in August, adding color and humor.



Swallowtail and small orange Fritillary on butterfly bush.



Left: Monarch butterfly. Right: Viceroy Butterfly.

CALENDAR

- Aug 31 & Sep 2** (Thu & Sat): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.
Sep. 5 (Tuesday): Seth Geeslin's yoga at 10:00 am in the Hall (free class).
Sep. 7 (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.
Sep. 8 (Friday): **Otis Family Events** 10:00 am – 11:30 am at Whitneyville Cemetery.
Sep. 9 (Saturday): Halifax Café CLOSED for Otis events.
" **Otis Family Events** 9:30 am – afternoon at the Hall.
Sep. 12 (Tuesday): Seth Geeslin's yoga at 10:00 am in the Hall (free class).
Sep. 14 (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.
Sep. 16 (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.
Sep. 19 (Tuesday): Seth Geeslin's yoga at 10:00 am in the Hall (free class).
Sep. 21 (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.
Sep. 23 (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.
" **Beavers in Halifax** talk by river scientist Denise Burchsted, 1:00-2:00 pm.
Sep. 26 (Tuesday): Seth Geeslin's yoga at 10:00 am in the Hall (free class).
Sep. 28 (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.
Sep. 30 (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.

OTIS HISTORY WEEKEND – Friday & Saturday, Sept. 8 & 9, 2023

September 8 and 9, the Otis family will host events celebrating a famous son of Halifax and colonial Vermont, Elisha Otis, inventor of the safety elevator brake (1857). Having safe elevators led to the rise of skyscrapers and our now-familiar city skylines. All events take place at or depart from the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax.



Friday, Sept. 8 –

9:30 AM Gather at the Community Hall in West Halifax to carpool up to **Whitneyville Cemetery** where fine hand-carved headstones will be revealed during the **Otis Family Commemorative Headstones Dedication (10:00-11:30 AM, Whitneyville Cemetery, 1470 Old County Rd)**. Revolutionary War Patriot Stephen Otis & Mayflower Descendant Lucy Chandler Otis lived the last 20 + years of their lives in Halifax at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Stephen Otis, Jr. and Phoebe Glynn Otis. They helped raise **Elisha Graves Otis** at the Otis homestead on Perry Road. The ceremony will include color guard, live music, blessing by local pastor Doug LaPlante, and dedication by DAR members from Brattleboro. This celebration is hosted by their direct descendants, Carol Otis and Kelly Otis Hazen.

Saturday, Sept. 9 –

9:30 AM weather permitting! Gather at the Community Hall in West Halifax to carpool up to the upper (south) end of Perry Road for the **Otis Homestead Hike** to the birthplace of Elisha Graves Otis and subsequent visit to the old Otis Mill on lower Perry Road, time permitting. **Note:** the trail is extremely wet and uneven. Waterproof boots, bug spray, and good balance are a must! This event will be cancelled if it is raining.

1:00 PM at the Community Hall, **David Gillespie** of South Carolina will demonstrate the traditional, 18th Century method of carving headstones (photo: D Gillespie) while Native American Crafters demonstrate flint



knapping (photo: Wikipedia), bead artisanry, and porcupine quill artisanry. David Gillespie will also have copies of his book for purchase and signing.

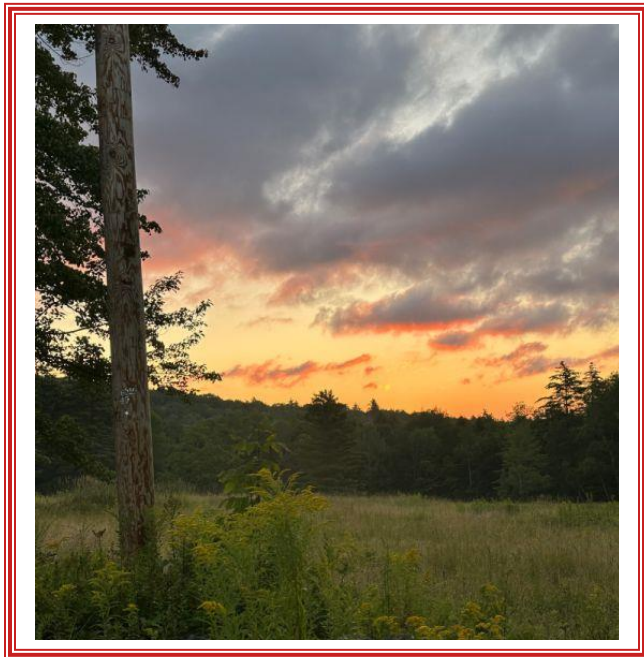


Volunteer Raleigh Brown cleans a family gravestone in Whitneyville Cemetery in preparation for the Otis Family Events (Sep. 8-9)

Newsletter ~ P O Box 27 ~ West Halifax VT 05358



Purple-Flowered Raspberry



August Sunrise

Halifax News

SEPTEMBER 2023

It's renewal time!

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