



The Preservation Trust of Vermont

Continuing Support for Vermont Communities Since 1980

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something for publication please contact Meg Campbell, Editor.

meg@ptvermont.org

Dear Friends,

We had a great response to the Silent Auction. It looks like we will generate over \$25,000 in total revenue! Thanks to everyone who participated. A special thanks to Val Demong and Adam Sbardellati who made this exciting event a reality.

The funds raised through our silent auction event and other fundraising efforts go to support preservation in communities throughout Vermont. To see some of the things we accomplished in 2001-- **Preservation Grants, Field Service Program, Downtown Initiatives, Village Stores, Better Post Offices** and the **Grand Isle Lake House** -- visit the Preservation Trust of Vermont web site at <http://www.ptvermont.org>.

Finally, congratulations to our *2001 Preservation Award* Winners. This year, the Equinox Hotel and Resort helped us recognize eight organizations and communities who achieved great success, often in enormously challenging circumstances. The recipients exemplify the hard work that is going on in every corner of Vermont. The 2001 Preservation Award Winners are: Lamoille Housing Partnership, Vermont Youth Orchestra for the Elley-Long Music Center, Housing Vermont for the Exner Block in Bellows Falls, Barre Historical Society for the Old Labor Hall in Barre, Duncan and Megs Keir and the Town of Huntington Selectboard for the Fuller House Project, East Braintree Congregational Church, Paramount Center in Rutland, and the City of St. Albans for the American House Annex and Franklin Heights. Excellent work everyone!

I wish you and your families a peaceful and healthy holiday season.

Paul Bruhn
Executive Director, Preservation Trust of Vermont

P.S. If you would like support our work, send your contribution to:

Preservation Trust of Vermont
104 Church Street
Burlington, Vermont 05401

Lyman Orton has offered us a Challenge Grant to help us increase public support of the Preservation Trust. If you donate \$50, Lyman will donate another \$25. Thanks for your consideration!

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VERMONT

The Latchis Project Receives Federal Funding

Sen. Patrick Leahy has secured \$300,000 in the VA/HUD appropriations bill to assist the Brattleboro Arts Initiative and Preservation Trust of Vermont in the preservation of the historic Latchis Complex and renovation into a multi-use educational, performing arts, and conference center for the Brattleboro area. The Latchis Center will make a significant contribution to the ongoing revitalization of Brattleboro's downtown business community. Arts and cultural events are recognized by town planners and economists as major factors in establishing and maintaining a vital economy.

The goals of the Brattleboro Arts Initiative and the Preservation trust of Vermont are realized in the preservation of the Latchis Complex, one of only two remaining Art Deco structures in Vermont, and in making the facilities available as a multi-use center containing three theaters for cinema and live arts performances, in addition to the a hotel and restaurant.

"This endeavor is an excellent illustration of action by a local initiative to save a historic building while meeting a critical community need," said Sen. Leahy. "The Latchis Project will be yet another outstanding part of the effort to restore downtown Brattleboro, much of which has already been accomplished with tremendous community spirit."

National Register News

The National Park Service has recently listed the *Roswell Butler House in Essex* on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a circa 1822 brick, Federal style house with a c. 1850 ell and a Queen Anne style wrap around porch. Built by a prominent local businessman at an important local crossroads, the building incorporates Federal stylistic features which reflect the owner's social standing and

affluence. It was recently rehabbed utilizing the Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit.

The National Park Service also recently listed the *Jericho Rural Historic District, in Hartford and Norwich* on the National Register of Historic Places. This intact farming district contains 35 contributing properties located in a natural upland bowl. It includes a string of contiguous intact farmsteads which depict the architecture and diverse agricultural activities of typical small-scale Vermont hill farms that evolved from the late 18th century to the mid 20th century.

The *Waitsfield Common Historic District* was also recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service. The district is a well-preserved early hilltop settlement containing 12 contributing properties surrounding the 1798 public common. It includes other historic landscape features such as a cemetery, tree and stone fence-lined eighteenth century roads, and cleared agricultural land. Included in the district are several Federal period homes and farmsteads which represent the late 18th and early 19th century period of development. The district is representative of patterns of early town development as well as the development of political and agricultural history.

Grants Awarded

The Preservation Trust in partnership with the Freeman Foundation has awarded the following grants:

Albany Historical Society: \$10,000. Last year the Albany Historical Society completed structural repairs to the former Albany Academy building, home to the Historical Society since 1995 and raised \$15,000 to erect a Memorial in front. The grant is a huge boost that will enable them to purchase a new furnace and paint the interior tin ceiling, walls and wainscoting.

Vermont Technical College's Red Schoolhouse Project, Randolph Center: \$35,000. In 2000 the Town of Randolph donated the early 20th century schoolhouse to VTC for use as it's agricultural education center. The expanded space will enable the school to add beef and sheep production courses to their curriculum. Ultimately the second floor space will have the capacity for special workshops and be available for community meetings. Phase one work includes exterior work, access, and the rehabilitation of the entire first floor.

Westminster Town Hall: \$40,000. The Italianate style Westminster Town Hall was built in 1889 and is a contributing structure within the Westminster Village Historic District. The building remains remarkably well preserved, retaining most of its original features. Town offices are on the first floor, and on the upper floor is a large open hall with a raised stage. The Town has completed Phase One of its restoration plan, making repairs to the cupola and installing a fire alarm system. They are now working on the second phase of repairs. The grant will allow them to conserve the windows and install storm windows (the building has electric baseboard heat), replace deteriorated clapboards and skirtboards, and paint the building. In addition, it will allow them to repair a cracked marble monument that sits in front of the Town Hall and is currently held together by a steel chain. This monument, which once served as a watering trough, was given to the town in 1913 by Henry Kellogg Willard in memory of his great-grandfather, William Czar Bradley, and father, Henry August Willard.

Middletown Springs Elementary School: \$15,000. The Middletown Springs Elementary School, built in 1904 in the Neo-Classical Revival style, is a great example of strong civic pride and concern for education that isn't always apparent in schools built in the last half of the 20th century. The two-story building features a central pavilion with full entablature, quoins, a belfry and clock tower. Over the past four years, the School Board has spent over \$20,000 to repair the tower, repair the slate roof, and replace rotted siding. The grant coupled with additional local funding will help them finish repairs to the exterior woodwork and paint the building in its original polychromatic paint scheme.

Isle La Motte, Methodist Episcopal Church Society: \$30,000. The United Methodist Church was erected by Scottish stonemason James Ritchie for \$434 which included \$12 for "two men at Fisk Quarry dressing cut stone." The church trustees have steadily maintained the building, spending \$8,000 in the last five years for repairs. In July they started a major project to repair the bell tower, but when the contractor began the work, they discovered the deterioration was much more extensive than expected, and repairs would exceed the \$10,000 the church had raised. The trustees have slowly built an endowment for continued maintenance.

Isle La Motte, Blacksmith Shop: \$10,000. Built in the early 1800s as a blacksmith shop, this building has the remarkable history that it continued as a blacksmith shop which was operated by the same family until 1961 when the building and contents were given to the Isle La Motte Historical Society. Containing what is reputedly the best collection of blacksmithing tools in the State, the building was moved in 1962 to the Historical Society grounds on Quarry Road, behind a stone schoolhouse also owned and maintained by the Historical Society. The Historical Society is raising funds to jack the building, reestablish the cement block foundation, repair a beam, repair of roof trusses, install a new metal roof, and repoint the stone building.

University of Vermont Morgan Horse Farm, Weybridge: \$50,000. A 1905 Act of Congress established the Morgan horse as the first U.S. horse breed and instructed the federal government to set up a Morgan horse breeding program to ensure the availability of high quality cavalry mounts. The program was initially located at the University of Vermont, but was later moved to Weybridge when Colonel Joseph Battell donated his farm and collection of Morgans to the cause. The farm is now used by UVM as part of its equine science educational program. The property has been well-maintained with recent expenditures of over \$250,000. The challenge now is to install a fire suppression system to protect the historic barns and the irreplaceable Morgans.

The Preservation Trust mourns the loss of Walter Cerf

Walter Cerf, a retired professor of philosophy, who is best known to Vermonters as a philanthropist in the arts, education, historic preservation and social services, died October 26, 2001 in his home in Leicester.

Born in Germany in 1907, Mr. Cerf was educated in Berlin and attended Universities in Freiburg, Heidelberg, Austria, Bonn and Princeton. He became a naturalized citizen in 1943, served in the U.S. Army, and later taught philosophy at Princeton, University of Minnesota and Brooklyn College. He retired to Vermont in 1971.

Mr. Cerf made gifts to Champlain College, the Shelburne Museum and the Vermont Arts Endowment. In 1997 he made a \$2 million gift to the Vermont Community Foundation to create the Walter Cerf Community Fund. Over the past 15 years, he made gifts exceeding \$12.5 million to more than 120 Vermont organizations.

There will be no services. A celebratory event is planned for May 14, 2001 which would have been his 95th birthday. Memorial contributions may be made to the Brandon Area Rescue Squad, Brandon, VT 05733.

PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS

Ascutney Union Church

Built in 1848, the Ascutney Union Church is located in the center of the village, next to the Town offices. Because of its location, the church goes beyond its ecclesiastical function to serve the community as a meeting place for various groups, including housing the food shelf. The small congregation, while faced with financial challenges, has been very energetic, raising approximately \$30,000 and lots of volunteer labor to systematically address needed repairs to the building. It's taken them three years, but Elsie Dodge, who is gathering all of the estimates and overseeing the final fundraising push, is confident they'll raise enough this year to conserve the windows, buy new invisible storm windows, and finish interior plaster repairs. For more information and certain inspiration, contact Elsie at edodge@tds.net.

Barton Memorial Building

The Barton Memorial Building, located on the village green, was built in 1931 as a veterans' memorial. The brick and concrete Colonial Revival building houses the town offices, a veterans office, a downstairs hall and a 400 seat theater. Several groups in town have been focusing on rehabilitating the theater space. Two years ago, with the help of a Better Communities for Vermont's Future grant, they raised \$20,000 to install a lift, making the space accessible. Now they're continuing to fundraise to address code issues and upgrade the theater lighting and conserve four massive arched windows that define the north facade. Roger and Dale Shaffer, who run the local B&B, "Shafferdale", and have a background in theater, are organizing the effort. They've written letters, talked to local clubs, hosted a variety show in the theater, held a sugar-on-snow party on the Green, and every other week host a bingo party sharing proceeds with the Library (a fundraising idea borrowed from Irasburg Town Hall restoration committee). It's a long process and lots of work, but they're building lots of support for this project and seeing results. For more information (or to stay at the Shafferdale B&B), please contact Roger or Dale at shafferdale@hotmail.com or 525-4405.

Bethel Old Town Hall

Built c.1885, the Queen Anne style old Town Hall is very similar to Middlebury's Clinton Smith designed Old Town Hall. The community is interested in rehabilitating the building, and in 1998, the town received an Agency of Commerce and Community Development Planning Grant to look at downtown revitalization and in particular at the old town hall. Arnold and Scangas Architects completed the study, finding the building needs approximately \$385,000 to bring it back. Since 1970 the building housed the fire department and two large garage doors were cut into the façade. And the Masonic Lodge currently leases space upstairs in the great hallway and is looking for a new home. Thankfully, when the Masons converted the space for their needs, they simply constructed a box inside the room, so that all of the historic finishes of the hall are intact! The town offices are located on the edge of town on Rt 107. Hopefully in the near future, they'll be back in the center of town in the Old Town Hall. The contact for this project is Nancy Hughes at 234-9152.

Bethel-Lympus Church

Built in the 1830s, this remotely located, vernacular white clapboard church remains

remarkably intact in spite of having no heat or electricity. The building is used seasonally by local and summer residents, who have worked hard to maintain the building over the years. Doug Porter completed a condition assessment, giving the trustees a road map for making repairs to the building. They've been fundraising and received both a State grant and \$20,000 Preservation Grant from the Preservation Trust to address repairs to the foundation, joists, and windows. They are currently seeking bids for repairs. Contact is George Carr at 234-5132.

Burlington Lakeview Cemetery

An ad hoc group of volunteers has been working for several years at the Lakeview Cemetery to rehabilitate the outstanding neo-Gothic style Howard Memorial Chapel, which is the highly visible from North Avenue. The polychrome nature of this masonry building is carried out even in the mortar, which was meticulously restored several years ago. Much of the group's recent efforts have been devoted towards organizational development, particularly in defining how this ad hoc committee will coordinate with the Burlington Cemetery Commission. Beyond that, they are beginning to fundraise in partnership with Preservation Burlington for the next phase of repairs: restoring the interior, so that the building can again be used as a chapel rather than the storage facility that it has been relinquished to for too many years. For more information, please contact Rosalie Sprout at rsprout@earthlink.net.

Cornwall, Lavalley house and store

This early 1900's country store located in the center of Cornwall village was "abandoned" -- as a store -- during the depression. Over the next 60 years the house remained inhabited, with no running water or central heat, by the spinster daughter of the store owner. The store interior is virtually untouched and retains all of the furnishings and appliances of a 1930's general store. An out-of-state relative who inherited the store and realized what a gem it was, recently gave the property to the Town of Cornwall as a transition measure until the Historical Society could organize to receive the property. Repairs and restoration, as well as future uses of the property, remain to be worked out. Working on this time capsule is Peter Conlon at pmconlon@together.net.

Danby Congregational Church

Built in 1838, the Danby Congregational Church has undergone a series of renovations so that it now exhibits Greek Revival, Gothic, and Colonial Revival style elements. The bell tower was removed in 1988 and today church members and local residents have launched a campaign to replicate the bell tower. The church received a Preservation Grant from the Preservation trust of Vermont of \$25,000 to help with the project. Construction for Phase I to address immediate repairs is nearly complete and the greater Danby community is working hard to fundraise for the next phase. Project architect is Tom Keefe, contractor is Harvest Construction and local contact is Paolo Zancanaro at paolo@sover.net.

Lyndon Historical Society: Shores Museum, Lyndon Town House, Old Schoolhouse, Randall Covered Bridge

The Historical Society is working to make repairs to four Lyndon buildings: an 1896, Queen Anne style Shores Museum; 1857 one-room schoolhouse to be restored as a museum; 1809 Town House to be rehabilitated to better serve community public uses; and the Chamber of Commerce-owned Randall Covered Bridge, which is critically in need of abutment work. Jan Lewandowski completed a condition assessment, which is serving as a road map to plan repairs and fundraise. The historical society mounted a capital campaign February 2001 and have raised approximately \$20,000 of the \$55,000 needed. They continue to work with the Town and to actively fundraise to meet their goal. Contact is Jim Fearon at jmfearon@together.net.

North Clarendon, Old Brick Church

Built by the Congregationalists in 1824, this Federal style brick church features

round arch windows and entry fanlights over twin paneled doors, set within wall arcade. An integral brick tower and belfry supports a spire, added in 1881 after the original belfry blew off in a windstorm. The church was listed on the National Register in 1984 as part of the Clarendon Village Historic District. The church just learned they need to raise \$140,000 for critical steeple repairs. Contact person is John Pedone 722-4770 ext. 150.

Randolph, Kimball House

In September, the White River Craft Center purchased the stately Kimball House, a large clapboard and shingle-sided 1887 Queen Anne style house built by Col. Robert Kimball as a summer residence. Kimball made his fortune in the banking business in NYC, and later endowed the Kimball Library in Randolph. The house was used for a number of years as the Randolph Country Club, and for a time was the Green Mountain Inn. In 1955 it was converted to the Tranquility Nursing Home. The White River Craft Center is a non-profit organization that offers outdoor programs, craft classes and mentoring for kids. Architect, Tom Keefe, is doing an assessment to help plan for the building's rehabilitation. The White River Craft Center hopes to do much of the work themselves as training for their students. Project contact is Kevin Harty, who's skills as a cabinetmaker and architectural woodworker will come in very handy! Kevin is at 728-6532.

Statehouse Model

The Montpelier Historical Society is working to restore a 1929 scale model of the Vermont Statehouse. Weighing 2000 lbs, the 15' x 8' x 12' model was built by local carpenters to commemorate the dedication of the Champlain Bridge. Chris Bellamy, a UVM Historic Preservation graduate, is overseeing the repairs to this unique historic treasure. For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Chris at chrbellamy@aol.com.

Wallingford, Gilbert Hart Library

Built in 1894, this Neoclassical Revival style library built of brick and marble with terra cotta detailing is located in the center of the Wallingford Village Historic District. The building was added onto in 1910 and 1940, but now is desperately out of space. The library's Strategic Planning Committee is working with Christine Graham to try to raise more than \$350,000 to provide ADA access, stack space, children's room, program space, computer terminal space, librarian office, and meeting room. Ralph Nimtz is the project architect. The tireless, volunteer contact is Anne Miller at annemiller@yahoo.com

NATIONAL

Congress Continues Consideration of Farm Bill

The Senate Agriculture Committee finally approved the Agriculture, Conservation, and Rural Enhancement Act of 2001 (S 1628) known as the Farm Bill, by voice vote on November 15th, after weeks of marking up the bill. The legislation includes two preservation measures. The National Historic Barn Preservation Act (S. 1604), introduced by Senator James Jeffords (I-VT), was added to the Rural Development Title of the Farm Bill. It authorizes \$25 million annually over the next five years for grant funding to protect historic barns. The Conservation Security Act (S. 932), which authorizes \$5 billion over 10 years to encourage farmers to adopt conservation practices, includes historic buildings, structures, objects, and archaeological sites on farmlands an eligible category. It was included in the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill. Both measures recognize historic barns and sites as essential elements of resource conservation and agricultural heritage.

If the lengthy committee mark-up is any indication, the process of getting the bill

through the full Senate may be difficult. However, bill sponsors are committed to producing a farm bill this year. Agriculture Committee member Zell Miller (D-GA) stated failure to do so "would be a slap in the face of every farmer across this nation." The current law will not expire until September 2002, but it is assumed that new money set aside for agriculture over the next 10 years will not be available if the legislation is not completed by the end of this year.

*Prepared by Preservation Action, Fax: 202/659-0189,
mail@preservationaction.org, www.preservationaction.org for the
 PRESERVATION ACTION LEGISLATIVE WATCH, Vol. 4, Number 45, November
 16, 2001*

Protecting Historic Buildings from Chain Drugstores

by Stacy Mitchell, Institute for Local Self-Reliance

Several years ago the major drugstore chains---CVS, Walgreens, Rite Aid, and Eckerd---lost interest in strip malls and began to focus their expansion plans on prominent downtown intersections. As Walgreens CEO Daniel Jorndt told the New York Times, the chain's preferred location these days is "the corner of Main and Main."

Often, of course, these intersections are occupied by some of the community's oldest and most significant buildings. Rather than reuse these structures, chain drugstores have bulldozed numerous downtown blocks to make way for their cookie-cutter outlets:

- An ornate 1906 Beaux Arts style building in DeKalb, Illinois was demolished for a Walgreens.
- A 200-year-old inn in Whitpain, Pennsylvania, was razed for a CVS.
- The historic Depot in Tarboro, North Carolina, was torn down early one Sunday morning while citizens groups were in the middle of negotiations with Eckerd over the its fate.
- In Brownsburg, Indiana, CVS demolished an entire block of historic buildings on the corner of the town's busiest intersection. One year later, Walgreens leveled the opposite block.

"There's no way to know how many communities have been affected," says Cristina Prochilo of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "But we've been flooded with phone calls from people asking for help."

In 1999, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, citing fears that downtowns would be converted to "cut-rate versions of suburban strip malls," placed the "Corner of Main and Main" on its annual list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Soon after, the Trust reached agreements with the major pharmacy chains to spare buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Unfortunately, many important and eligible structures have not been submitted for inclusion in the Register and remain at risk. Nevertheless, the Trust's attention to the issue and the resulting publicity have strengthened local campaigns. In Oklahoma City, plans to replace a 1958 Buckminster Fuller-designed geodesic dome with a Walgreens were recently dropped. In Hamilton, Ohio, six historic buildings on Main Street were saved from CVS.

Although citizen protest can succeed, the only way to ensure protection of important

structures is through local zoning ordinances that safeguard designated historic districts and establish design standards. Such ordinances are multiplying as communities realize the value of historic buildings.

Some communities are also focusing their economic development efforts on independent pharmacies and enacting ordinances that deter chains, such as formula business restrictions, impact reviews, and limits on the size of retail stores. A 4,000 square foot cap on the size of retail businesses in some San Francisco neighborhoods, for example, keeps out drugstore chains, which are reluctant to build outlets smaller than their standard 14,000 square foot format.

-- The National Trust for Historic Preservation can provide model ordinances and guidance for communities seeking to protect historic structures. Call 202-588-6296 or visit <http://www.nthp.org>.

-- Examples of size caps, impact reviews, and formula business restrictions can be found on the New Rules web site at <http://www.newrules.org/retail>

*Stacy Mitchell is a researcher with the New Rules Project (<http://www.newrules.org>) of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. She is the author of *The Home Town Advantage: How to Defend Your Main Street Against Chain Stores and Why It Matters* (ILSR, 2000) and edits a bimonthly email newsletter (<http://www.newrules.org/hta/index.htm>) on efforts nationwide to keep chain stores out and protect locally owned businesses.*

COMMENTARY

It works!

Retreats for Volunteer Preservationists

By Ann S. Cousins

A bit of magic happens when local volunteer preservationists gather at the Grand Isle Lake House to talk about community projects. Part of the magic comes from the passion of individuals who care deeply about their communities. Another part is the discovery that there are others out there with similar hopes and experiences. And not to be overlooked, there's the setting-- the turn-of-the-century former hotel, Grand Isle Lake House, now owned by the Preservation Trust of Vermont, is simply a perfect place for a retreat.

For the past three years, the Preservation Trust of Vermont has hosted two-day retreats for volunteers who are working on community preservation projects. The retreats are tied closely with the work of the Field Services Program, a partnership of the Preservation Trust of Vermont and the National Trust. The Field Services Program provides direct assistance to groups undertaking community preservation projects. The retreats are a way to bring together six or seven community groups working on similar kinds of projects. A goal is to have a good mix of interesting projects at different points along their timeline. According to Paul Bruhn, Executive Director for the Preservation Trust of Vermont, "The participants mentor each other, learn that they are not the only ones working on very challenging projects, and see that they are all part of the process of building better communities and helping to protect the character of Vermont."

The retreats are structured so that each group of two-to-four individuals is invited to present a 10-15 minute case study about their preservation project. The case study is meant to frame a specific problem or situation that once solved will catapult that

project to a higher level. Following the case study is about 45 minutes of brainstorming and cross-mentoring.

Along with community preservationists, two or three resource people are part of the mix. Depending on the projects, they might include someone from the State Historic Preservation Office or National Trust Northeast Office, or a fund-raising consultant, developer, architect, or someone from the Vermont Arts Council. By-and-large, it is the community volunteers who bring collective thinking and experience to one another's projects. At times, mentors have challenged the credibility of the problem, turning a project on its head before sending it down another path. Other times they have validated a group's intuition. But always, participants have been generous with advice, often going beyond the retreat to visit one another's projects and provide ongoing support.

Besides the structured case studies, the retreats allow time, before and after dinner, for more casual discussion -- maybe during a walk, or sitting on the porch, or gathering around a scrapbook or display. During those special moments, ideas continue to flow with even more out-of-the box thinking. According to Sandy Kilburn, a retreat participant from Swanton, Vermont, "It's so important to get together -- to be inspired by what other towns are doing and to learn from them so that we don't reinvent the wheel. It's invaluable!"

And finally there's the setting! Bringing people together in a wonderful historic place brings out the best. Owned by the Preservation Trust of Vermont, this 1902-3, former-hotel on Lake Champlain, is a preservation project in progress. "Part of the reason we decided to take on the Grand Isle Lake House project was that we hoped we could use this great place as a venue for nonprofit training and education" says Bruhn. "In fact, we hoped it would be our version of a nonprofit "dacha" -- a place for renewal and re-energizing people active in the nonprofit sector." Every effort is made to keep the experience affordable. Overnight with dinner, breakfast and lunch costs \$75 per person. "And in the end," says Bruhn, "it's truly amazing to see people fly out of the Lake House with new energy and enthusiasm." The retreats help build Vermont's preservation network.

Ann Cousins is the Vermont Field Service Representative for the Preservation Trust of Vermont and the National Trust. For more information about the Field Service Program, the Grand Isle Lake House, and Preservationists' Retreats, please visit the Preservation Trust web site at www.ptvermont.org.

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PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

"Stop the Circ" Website now up and running

StopTheCirc.com -- now available on the Web at <http://www.stopthecirc.com> -- gets to the heart of the controversial Chittenden County Circ Highway by countering the 10 most often cited arguments in favor of building the highway. StopTheCirc.com also provides a variety of interactive ways for learning about the Circ Highway and its impacts:

- Take a short quiz to test your knowledge about the Circ.
- Check out the Circ Highway "Strange, but True, Facts."
- Come along on a photo tour of the Circ right-of-way to see what will be

- lost if the Circ is completed (and meet Walter the donkey along the way).
- The Circ & its environmental impacts.
- Why fiscal conservatives should be alarmed by the Circ.
- Find out how you can help efforts to stop the Circ.

StopTheCirc.com is not affiliated with any organization or business. www.StopTheCirc.com has been independently developed by Wayne Senville, former Chair of the Burlington Planning Commission and Vermont "citizen planner of the year." According to Senville, "Many citizens have given up on fighting the Circ, even though they realize it will be extraordinarily expensive to complete, and most likely the biggest sprawl-inducing transportation project in Vermont. Fortunately, there's still a window of opportunity for stopping the Circ. One aim of this Web site is to help energize people to fight the Circ, whether by contacting their state rep, speaking to their selectboard, or signing our online petition to the Governor."

The Men of Maple Corner Calendar

Maple Corner Men Reveal Community Spirit...And Much More.

Responding to their community center's need for money, the Men of Maple Corner, in Calais, VT, dropped everything - or nearly everything - for "The Men of Maple Corner" a calendar for 2002. And the world has taken notice: the calendar has been featured on NBC's Today Show, CNN, USA Today, the Associated Press and by several foreign news services, as well as in the local press.

Check out "Mr. March" - lifetime resident Stanley Fitch - artfully posed in his sugarhouse. Or perhaps you'd prefer "Mr. April" - fishing guide Don Heise, in his canoe.

The idea for the calendar came about after the Maple Corner Community Center found itself facing high-priced renovations to the 100-plus year old building, and having a diminishing supply of cash. "We've been very energetic about raising money," said Cornelia Emlen, who spearheaded the calendar project. "We've written grants, we've held fund-raisers, and we've gone to people with our hands out. But we found ourselves thousands of dollars short of our goal."

The initial goal of raising \$28,000 included funding many big-ticket items required by state regulations, including the installation of an accessible bathroom, a fire escape, and a new septic system. In addition, on-going repairs to the historic, white clapboard building were necessary. With 25,000 calendars printed - and nearly all sold - and a third printing in the works, the goal has clearly been met, although the amount of money collected is unclear as costs associated with the project continue to rise. The spending of the additional money will be the subject of community-wide discussion in the near future.

The community center, located in the village of Maple Corner, 10 miles north of Vermont's capital city, Montpelier, has served as a gathering place for the community since the 1920s. Built as a store in the late 1800s, it was moved (about a mile) to its present site in 1923, and served for many years as the local Grange Hall. In 1949, when the Grange disbanded, the Maple Corner Community Club was formed. Since that time, many events - pot-luck suppers, plays, dances, concerts, poetry readings, and holiday parties - have been held there. It is a non-profit, 501-C3 organization.

The much-publicized success of "The Ladies of Rylstone" calendar - in which members of a British women's organization disrobed for charity - spurred Emlen

and others to take on this project. The calendar was initially called "The Full VerMonty," after the 1998 British film, "The Full Monty," which tells the story of a group of out-of-work men who perform a strip-tease to make money. But trademark issues with Twentieth Century Fox have made the use of the name problematic. We regret any confusion that may have resulted from the change in name.

The project has given rise to "great community spirit and a certain number of bad puns," said Emlen. She said the project organizers were aiming for a calendar that is "tacky, but tasteful." Professional photographer and Calais resident Craig Line volunteered his services to create the quality black-and-white images. Samples of the calendar photographs can be viewed in the "recent projects" section of Line's website, at www.craiglinephotos.com.

The calendar, which costs \$15 plus \$1.00 shipping, can be ordered on-line at www.maplecorner.net, a community website designed and maintained by "Mr. May," Steve Gallagher. Or calendars can be ordered by sending a check or money order to: Calendar, Maple Corner Community Center, PO Box 39, Calais, VT 05648; or by calling our toll-free number, 1-800-274.3927. The calendars are also on sale in select stores throughout Vermont.

UNFORTUNATELY, DUE TO THE INCREDIBLE DEMAND, DELIVERY OF CALENDARS ORDERED AT THIS TIME CANNOT BE GUARANTEED BY CHRISTMAS.

EVENTS

Orton Family Foundation Fall Workshops for Planners

The Orton Family Foundation will present three new workshops this fall for citizen planners and professionals involved in community planning. The workshops will focus on Community Design, Community Investment, and "Orton Online," a Basic Planning Course Online. Partners participating in the presentation of these workshops include the Preservation Trust of Vermont, the Vermont Forum on Sprawl, and The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

"Orton Online: Basic Planning for Citizen Planners,"

Available by January 1, 2002 at <http://www.orton.org>

The third workshop, "Orton Online: Basic Planning for Citizen Planners," is an Internet course developed with The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy of Cambridge, Massachusetts. This online course, developed with experienced Vermont planners, includes Vermont-specific supplements to general planning information. It will be an ideal tool for members of planning commissions, zoning boards, selectboards, and interested citizens to educate themselves or brush up on planning principles. This new Internet site will enable users to determine their own learning path and pace, to choose topics and lessons in any order, and repeat lessons as often as needed. "Orton Online" will be available by January 1, 2002 at www.orton.org.

For further information or to register, please contact The Orton Family Foundation at (802) 773-6336 or online at <http://www.orton.org>, or contact Martha Perkins at 802-425-5761 or perkins@together.net.

OPPORTUNITIES

Curator of Collections, Shelburne Farms

Shelburne Farms, a National Historic Landmark estate property and environmental education organization, seeks a curator to manage its three-dimensional and archival collections, including Gilded Age furnishings, historic photographs, and estate records. Responsibilities include interpreting the history of the property and collections; developing collections policies and maintaining collections records; answering research questions and providing access to archival materials; managing rights and reproduction requests; supervising volunteers and interns; grantwriting; overseeing seasonal opening and closing activities; and contracting for conservation of collections items. Qualified candidates will have an M.A. in American history, museum studies, or a related field, at least two years' experience managing collections, preferably in a historic house setting, and the ability to work independently. Applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and references to: Erica Donniss, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Road, Shelburne, VT 05482 or fax to (802) 985-8123 by January 31, 2002. No telephone inquiries, please.

Announcing Preservation Week 2002, May 12-18 and the second annual Preservation Week poster contest!

The theme of Preservation Week 2002 expands on the conference theme, "The Spirit of Place." It's about more than saving historic buildings. It's about embracing the many layers of our past. From Native American archaeology to Atlanta's inner neighborhoods, America's heritage belongs to everyone from all walks of life. Celebrating the rich tapestry of America's past is essential to ensuring its future - and Preservation Week is the time for communities to show how they value the diversity that make them unique.

The 2002 poster contest is officially underway! The winning poster will become the National Trust's official Preservation Week poster, and will be seen in displays and celebrations across the nation. Last year, three winners and 10 honorable mentions were chosen from 145 entries nationwide. Any school, nonprofit organization or state/local government is eligible to compete in the contest.

The National Trust will award cash prizes of \$2,000, \$1,500 and \$1,000 to the top three winners. The deadline for entries is Jan. 4, 2002, and the official poster will be available in February.

For more information about *Historic Vermont*, to subscribe or to unsubscribe to the email version, or to submit something for publication please contact Meg Campbell, Editor. meg@ptvermont.org

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