

NEWS

A newsletter to inform, celebrate, promote and contribute to the community of Brookfield.

2007 Old Town Hall Renovation Report

BY STEVE REID

As anyone who has ever been involved with a non-profit renovation project knows, progress generally comes in 'fits and starts'—as the cash necessary to fund the next highest priority are raised. 2007 has been a very productive one in that sense, with two bite-sized projects completed and a third in the wings:

Vermont Arts Council Access Grant

Jon Binhammer, stalwart contributor to the Fundraising Committee and regular participant in all 'work parties' at the Town Hall, gets the glory for securing a \$7,500 matching grant from the Vermont Arts Council in the fall of 2006, to construct a new handicapped access ramp on the north side of the Town Hall. Jay Ancel of Black River Design successfully defended the lighter (than pressure treated 4 X 4's) and far more attractive fabricated steel railing (continued on page 2)

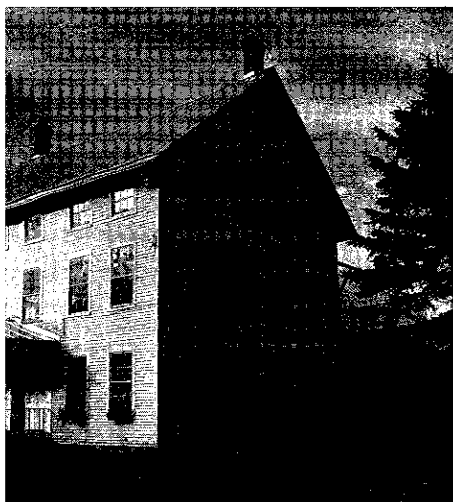


Brookfield Elementary School's graduation was held at the Old Town Hall in June 2007. See story on page 3.

The Town Hall Thrives!

BY TED ELZEY

2007 has seen yet more community activities in Brookfield's Old Town Hall. A major event was the first graduation of the Brookfield Elementary School's 6th grade class in many years, complete with new (and pond-related...) traditions — read all about it in this newsletter! Last year's project to shore up the Hall's foundation has meant that we have a very danceable floor in the Main Hall. That, combined with the Hall's celebrated acoustics, has made possible music and dancing to such disparate groups as The Catamount Brass Quintet, Mango Jam, the Radio Rangers and the Starline Rhythm Boys. Other important milestones for the Town Hall this year: a new handicapped access ramp, a new roof, plans for restoration of the historic windows, and successful fundraising activities to bring us to a new year of continued renovation, and much more community use and involvement in this historic building. Please enjoy this newsletter, and join in celebrating so much about Brookfield in our own Town Hall!



(continued from page 1)

design that was ultimately executed by Stairs Unlimited. Dave Aldrighetti and crew built the superstructure and lent our weekend volunteers the cordless hammer drill that secured the Trex decking. Quite the team effort, and a very handsome finished product. We still need to install a new door with more appropriate accessibility hardware, but that's waiting for the dust to settle on sister projects.

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation Roof Grant

A collaborative grant writing effort last fall by Billi Gosh, John Roe and Jon Binhammer of the Fundraising Committee got us a \$15,000 matching grant from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation with which to replace the aging Town Hall roof with a new one of 'galvalume' standing seam. The low bidder for the job was Iron Horse Standing Seam Roofing of Tunbridge, which came in \$5,000 under (yup, UNDER) the fall, 2006 estimate used for grant writing, and we had to do none of the roof deck repair work for which we had budgeted \$12,000. As a result, the total cost of the roof project, which was expertly completed by Iron Horse, came in under \$15,000 which meant that we spent only half of VDHP's matching funds.

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation Window Restoration Grant

Never ones to miss a beat, Billi Gosh, John Roe and Jon Binhammer promptly invited Eric Gilbertson from VDHP to come see the new roof—AND to discuss the possibility of transferring the unused portion of our roof grant (+-\$7,500) to a matching fund for window restoration. Eric was quite receptive to that idea, so we're now seeking proposals from several window restoration contractors to see how many windows we can restore with +-\$15,000.

In between major projects, several summer/fall 'work parties' have tackled projects like: fastening down the decking on the new access ramp, excavating and properly storing bricks for future foundation wall facing duty, repairing clapboards and generally cleaning up around the Town Hall. Always a lot more fun working with friends and neighbors on projects like these, so you get to catch up on all that is going on with them at the same time that so much work is getting done!

June 12

The Brookfield Elementary School 6th Grade graduation (see story on p. 3)

July 8

The Catamount Brass Quintet played the Town Hall

July 28

Mango Jam got the Town Hall crowd hopping!

August 14-17

Beth Telford's annual Cape Breton Fiddle Camp

August 12

The annual Brookfield gala days celebration included a pancake breakfast at Pond Village Church, pie sale at the E. Brookfield church, a book sale at the Brookfield Public library, and a raspberry dinner put on by the Brookfield Masons at their lodge. The day ended with a silent auction, and the great Radio Rangers in the Town Hall.



Bargain hunters shop at the fall tag sale.

Sept. 21

The Starline Rhythm Boys returned to the Brookfield Town Hall for great music and dancing.

October 6-7

A huge sale of items donated to benefit the Town Hall and overseen by Ted Elzey, Ron and Linnea LaPerle, Elinor Gray, Melanie LaRocque and Mertice Sherwood, raised \$1,005. An even bigger fundraising sale is planned for spring, 2008 – please think about donating items for sale!

FUNDS RAISED IN 2006-7

- * \$15,000: Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
- * \$5,500: Annual Appeal
- * \$1,000: Co-operative Insurance Companies
- * \$1,000: Frankenberg Agency
- * \$1,000: Silent Auction
- * \$1,000: Yard Sale
- * \$600: Bingo
- * \$25,100: Total

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO BROOKFIELD'S TOWN HALL!

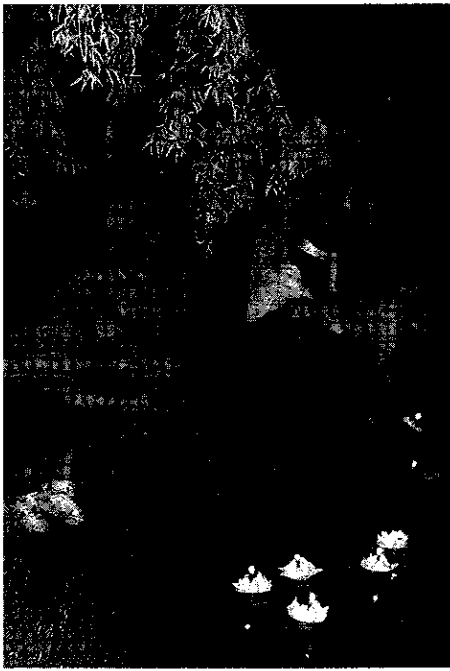
You can be sure that your tax-deductible donations will make a difference! Checks of any amount can be made out to Brookfield Community Partnership, and sent to:
Brookfield Community Partnership, PO Box 452, Brookfield, VT 05036.

Thank you!

Brookfield Community Partnership Directors

John Roe, *Chair*, Ted Elzey, Elinor Gray, Curtis Koren, Ed Koren, Ron LaPerle, Steve Reid

TOWN HALL GRADUATION



REPORT BY TOMMY ZANI

2007 Brookfield School Graduate

The Town Hall was a wonderful place to have the Brookfield Elementary School class of 2007 graduation. Since it is very spacious, it was perfect for our large class of 24.

Several days before graduation we cleaned the town hall. It was a good way to help our community and our class. While cleaning the upstairs, we had to wear masks to prevent inhaling large quantities of dust. Mrs. Davignon was the boss of unloading chairs, the queen of wet vacuuming, and the goddess of dusting. Ms. Chase reorganized and commanded the kids upstairs.

To continue a long-standing tradition, Mrs. Ferris taught us the school song and graduation step. At graduation there was a standing room only crowd shuttled from the Brookfield School. Thanks to Mrs. Gilbert's help, each student gave a speech to honor family, teachers, and friends.

I was the founder of the new tradition for graduating classes and their teachers, to take a little dip in Sunset Lake after the ceremonies. All in all, graduation at the town hall was spectacular and wet!

REPORT BY SARA DAVIGNON

Brookfield School 6th grade teacher, 2006-07

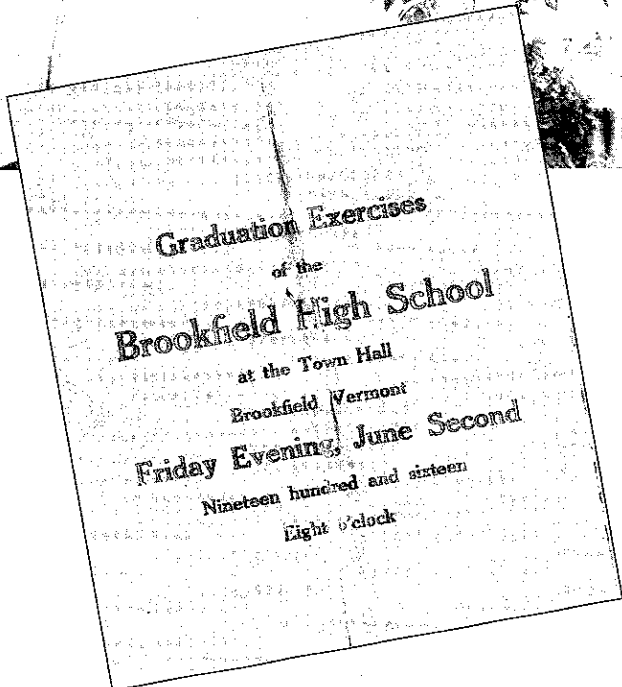
The 2006-07 Brookfield sixth grade class will always be remembered for being a special and unique class. They will also be remembered for being the first class in many, many years to have their 6th grade graduation at the Old Town Hall. We knew it would be difficult to hold all the guests of this large class in our school gym, so parents and school staff decided that the graduation should remain in Brookfield and in the Town Hall. Approximately 200 guests watched the 24 students graduate after their seven years at Brookfield Elementary School.

Kids took an afternoon and went down to the Town Hall for some spring cleaning. They were divided into cleaning committees and, with guidance from some super parent volunteers, went to town! They cleaned windows, swept and mopped floors, used Shop Vacs, and moved chairs and other items to make space for the big event. A group of kids planted flowers donated by the Zani family to decorate the front steps of the hall. I was truly amazed with the amount of ownership and pride this group of kids showed. There were kids on their hands and knees scrubbing the floor, and not once did I see a single student standing around or complaining about doing the work. Instead I was constantly asked, "Mrs. D., what can I do next?" This was their graduation and they were going to make it the very best day ever.

The big day could not have turned out to be more perfect. The hall was filled with smiles, laughter and tears, and decorated with student's individual identity posters and other great decorations contributed by the parent decoration committee. The ceremony began with the students marching in to "Pomp and Circumstance" played on the piano by Sue Hill. Then came the reading of student reflections, individual slide shows and awards. To end the ceremony, the class sang the Brookfield School Song, celebrating its 25th anniversary that night. The grand finale of the night was the start of a new tradition. The students launched biodegradable boats containing lighted candles into Sunset Lake as a symbol of their own new beginnings and their journeys ahead. Then the students themselves jumped into the pond fully clothed. Tommy Zani was the first to go in and other classmates and teachers followed!

This night was made possible by so many people. Thank you to all the sixth grade parents who helped with the decorations, set-up and clean up, refreshments, and especially to Linda Garrett and Tim Swartz for helping with the boats. Thank you as well to the Brookfield Staff, and to so many community members who helped with the big event, including Justin Poulin and Craig Russell who collected tickets at the door, and Ed Koren for letting me in the hall on weekends to get ready. A special thank you to the members of the Town Hall committee for helping us out.





The Old Town Hall has a history of many happy graduations. An 8th grade class from 1954 celebrates (above), and a program from a high school graduation ceremony in 1916 (left).

2008 EVENTS

In Jan. we will be planning the events for 2008.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

Contact us
276-3020
with your ideas and include the types of events you would be willing to work on

STAY IN TOUCH!

For Town Hall Updates, please send your email or snail mail address to Ted Elzey, Ted@C21Millstone.com, or call Ted at 276-3020.