

# NEWS

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

## Old Town Hall Warms Up the Brookfield Community Spring, Summer and Fall

BY TED ELZEY

As spring brought warmer weather to Brookfield, the Old Town Hall opened its doors to three seasons of community events. We have maintained a dual purpose in hosting these activities: 1) to broaden Brookfield's awareness, interest and appreciation of the Old Town Hall's community value, and 2) to stimulate Old Town Hall fund-raising.

The Old Town Hall spring season began on Saturday, May 17th, with a reception to celebrate the wedding of Brookfield residents Stan Blaise and Marylou Maeder.

With the wedding dance music still reverberating in the walls, volunteers worked feverishly to complete the transformation that allowed us to hold a two-day yard sale the very next weekend, May 24th and 25th. Broad support from the community, the efforts of our hearty volunteers, and the blessing of good weather brought in more than \$1300 to the Old Town Hall treasury.

Two weeks later, and again with the help of community volunteers, the Old Town Hall inaugurated its Summer Movie Series, running free films each Monday evening, June 16th through August 25th. Over the course of the summer, well over 300 residents from the Brookfield-Randolph area attended films in the Old Town Hall. These movie-lovers also patronized our refreshment stand, which, along with other



(above) Visitors enjoy learning about medieval crafts at the Panther Vale Shire Medieval Faire at the Old Town Hall in July.  
(below) Students in Beth Telford's fiddle camp performing at the closing night program.

movie night donations, brought in about \$1000 for the Old Town Hall. Thanks to the Randolph Rotary club for their donation for the projector and DVD to show the movies.

The summer months saw other activity, as well. On Sunday, July 6th, Brookfield was visited by the Panther Vale Shire of the Society for Creative Anachronism (that is, the Central Vermont chapter of a national organization of medieval enthusiasts). The Panther Vale Shire held their business meeting and luncheon in the Old Town Hall, then set up an outdoor Medieval Faire in the OTH parking area — complete with lords and ladies in medieval costume, knights in shining armor, and demonstrations of medieval crafts.

On Saturday evening, July 17th, the Old Town Hall hosted a private memorial film showing, paying tribute to the late Herman Engle, documentary filmmaker.

During the week of August 18th-22nd, Beth Telford's fiddle camp returned with thirty tal-

ented students for its fourth year of music and summer fun. The week culminated in a Friday night program that celebrated the students' work and also included world-class fiddlers Jerry Holland and Ashley MacIsaac.

Taking advantage of this year's glorious autumn weather, the Old Town Hall played an integral role in Brookfield Days on October 11th, with a two-day yard sale that netted over \$1100. We would like to thank Chuck Barnum for organizing Brookfield Days.

Saturday, October 25th brought two final events for 2008. First, Clotilde Hryshko organized a Harvest Dinner fund-raiser for the Old Town Hall at the Pond Village Church, with two seatings. And second, the fifth- and sixth-graders from the Brookfield School transformed the lower level of the Old Town Hall into a Haunted House, inviting young and old, with or without costume, to attend.

**Our hearty thanks to all of you who joined us at the Old Town Hall this year!**



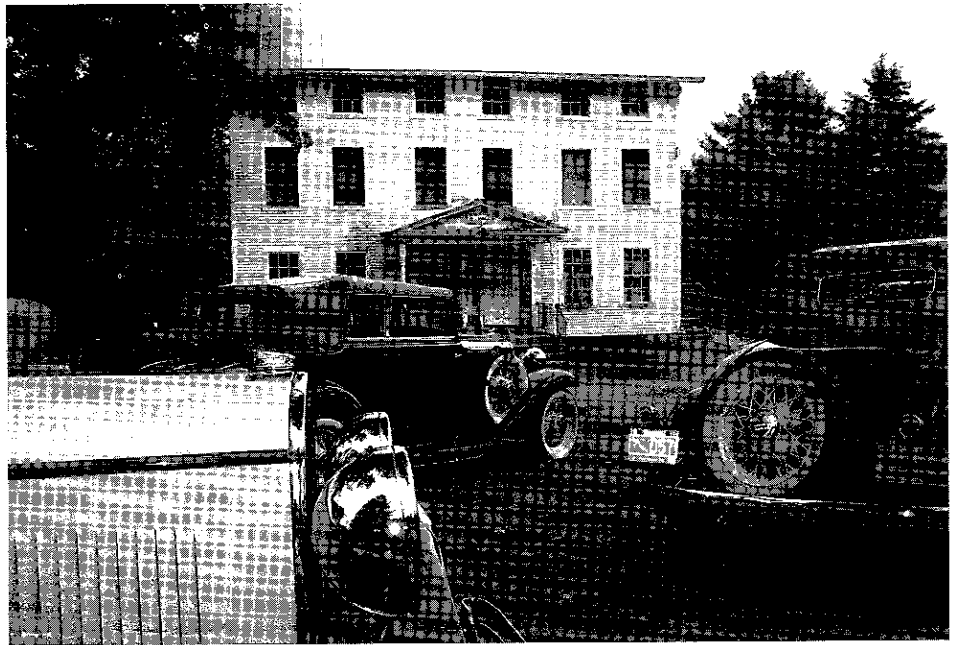
# Old Town Hall Renovation Continues

BY STEVE REID

The principle renovation work of the 2008 summer season was the refurbishing and painting of the Old Town Hall's 60 double-hung windows, using the \$7,500 in matching funds from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. These funds were left over from 2007, when our standing seam roof project came in substantially under budget. We negotiated a deal with VDHP, spearheaded by Billi Gosh, to extend the grant for a year, thereby giving us the opportunity to significantly stretch those matching dollars.

As it turned out, shopping for renovators of antique windows was a very challenging process. Early estimates from three restoration specialists, with whom VDHP was familiar, were in the breath-taking range of \$70,000-80,000. This made our \$15,000 budget (\$7,500 from VDHP and a \$7,500 match from our fundraising efforts) look like the proverbial drop in the bucket, and it would have turned the window project into a decade-long fundraising effort.

Fortunately, the new VDHP director, Devin Colman, was willing to let us explore other ways of getting the work done. So, with invaluable help from Bobby Gosh, who had recently been through a similar process of restoring antique windows, we wrote a scope of work, assembled floor plans identifying the various window sizes and types, and sent a Request for Proposal to a short list of Central Vermont house painters. The best proposal was from Lacaillade Professional Painters of Randolph, which proposed setting-up shop on the second floor of the Old Town Hall and using our windows as rainy day work with a budget of \$7,000-8,000. The price variable was the cost of new glass where it was necessary and the amount of finish carpentry needed to repair and replace damaged or rotted window sashes.



Antique car enthusiasts took a break in front of the Old Town Hall this summer. The building shows the work in progress on window restoration.

I know, that sounds too good to be true, but the fact is that over the course of the summer and early fall each sash was taken out of the 60 window openings and broken glass was replaced. The sashes and window openings were scraped, sanded, repaired and painted. Ben Lacaillade's final invoice was \$7,295. Thank you, Ben.

Another significant improvement this summer was the installation of a temporary, but extremely functional, set of stairs from the ground floor to the lower level. This has given us easy access to much-needed storage space for yard sale items, etc. This project was spearheaded by our fearless leader, Ted Elzey, and constructed by Bruce Stearns.

### Brookfield Community Partnership Board of Directors

Ted Elzey, *Chair*  
John Cole  
Curtis Koren  
Ed Koren  
Ron LaPede  
Steve Reid  
Charlie Zani

### Fundraising Committee

John Roe, *Chair*  
Jon Binhammer  
Bill Gosh

### Events Committee

Rachel and Dmitri Andreyev  
Joanna Bogenwebel  
Ted Elzey  
Elinor Gray  
Denise Holmes  
Clotilde Hryshko  
Linnea and Ron LaPede  
Melanie Larocque  
Jackie Wilder  
Charlie Zani

### Building Committee

Steve Reid, *Chair*  
Bobby Gosh

**FUNDS RAISED IN 2007-8**

- \* \$8,500: Annual Appeal
- \* \$1,350: Memorial Day Weekend Yard Sale
- \* \$1,100: October Yard Sale
- \* \$1,000: Summer Movie Series
- \* \$650: Harvest Community Dinner
- \* \$325: Donations for Use of Town Hall
- \* \$12,925: Total

**2009 EVENTS**

In February we will be planning the events for 2009.

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!**

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

**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO BROOKFIELD'S OLD 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, P.O. Box 452, Brookfield, VT 05036.

**Thank you!**