



# NEWS

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

## Wide-Ranging Activities Repeatedly Transform the Old Town Hall

BY TED ELZEY

**T**he year 2010 brought a lot of activity – and more community members than we've seen in years at the Old Town Hall!

We opened the Old Town Hall this spring for a pot luck supper on May 22nd. Brightly colored table cloths welcomed over sixty residents – and what a feast they provided! After dinner we discussed plans for the Old Town Hall – fund-raising, committees, and the slate of events for the summer and fall.

Less than three weeks later, the dining room setting was transformed into a dance floor – where over twenty couples arrived on June 8th for "Dancing with the Neighbors 2010." For six Tuesday evenings, couples waltzed, tangoed and fox trotted under the guidance of instructor Carolyn Pedrick.

The night after ballroom dancing lessons came to a close, we transformed the Old Town Hall once again – back to a dining room for the next special event. On Wednesday evening, July 14th, sixty folks arrived for a salad supper, then sat back to enjoy the humor and wisdom of New England essayist Willem Lange.

Okay, Brookfielders can come together to enjoy Willem Lange, but an evening of poetry? But of course! On July 28th we



Floating Bridge Food and Farms Cooperative brought "Market Day" to the Old Town Hall in late August.

rearranged the chairs and brought in three of Vermont's highly regarded poets. We billed the evening "Pie and Poetry." Over forty poetry lovers turned out to hear David Budbill, Marjorie Ryerson and Geoff Hewitt, followed by pie, pie and more pie. (Our thanks to our many Brookfield "pastry chefs.") So, what brought so many residents to the Old Town Hall on a warm summer evening – the pie or the poetry or both? Many of you have urged us to reprise this event, so we think we know the answer.

Less than two weeks later, we reconfigured the Old Town Hall from poetry salon to crafts camp! This was another new activity for us – a three-day camp for elementary school-age children. We are already thinking about how much this kind of program adds to our community in the summertime. Stay tuned!

Beth Telford and her Fiddle Camp campers arrived for the week of August 16th. This was the sixth year that fiddle music has wafted out of the OTH over the pond. This year's camp addition: pogo stick recreation!

In late August we partnered with the newly inaugurated Floating Bridge Food and Farms Cooperative to bring "Market Day" to our community. On Saturday, August 28th, the Old Town Hall hosted close to 500 visitors to the Cooperative's many booths. Guests also visited the Brookfield Library Book Sale, and a dozen artists gathered for Art in the Park. Our thanks to Meryl and Skip Buck, who conducted wagon rides through the village, and to the fiddlers who performed throughout the afternoon. And, thanks to the generous donations of the

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Meryl Buck took folks for wagon rides in the village on Market Day.

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Cooperative members and the local artists, we conducted a very successful silent auction of over twenty items for bidding. The Cooperative's chicken barbecue feast—all local products, all Cooperative labor—was a sell-out! And the day ended with a long-awaited square dance by Her Majesty's Streak O' Lean Band and caller Jennifer Steckler.

But the season was not over yet. On Saturday, September 11th, the Old Town Hall rocked to the music of the Starline Rhythm Boys, playing for an enthusiastic crowd – the SRB's third visit in the past few years.

Finally, 2010 Old Town Hall events closed out with two nights of Haunted House Horrors, hosted by the Brookfield School Club and attended by the bravest young souls in our community.

It's an impressive line-up of activities – but it couldn't happen without the help of so many volunteers and all of you whose enthusiastic attendance at the Old Town Hall makes it all worthwhile. So to all of you, our heartfelt thanks.

## No Kidding Around - It's Potty Time!!

Installing two first-rate indoor toilets is our most important renovation goal for 2011. Life does not come back to a building without lots of happy people filling that space. Those people need proper restrooms because we can't throw a good party without a good potty!

From the beginning we have planned on using composting toilets rather than traditional flush toilets. State-of-the-art composting toilets rival any modern toilets. The waterless composting toilets come as a whole manufactured unit, thus avoiding the

cost of digging a new well. Instead of a septic system, grey water will feed into a garden.

We plan to use volunteers to construct the actual restroom walls, under the guidance of skilled builders. (Please call 276-3020, if you would like to volunteer.) The manufacturer will install all components of the toilets, including venting. Estimates show that it will cost \$25,000 to buy the toilets and the materials needed to create the two restrooms.

This summer we launched a campaign to raise funds for this important project, which will be on-going until the \$25,000 goal is reached.

### FUNDS RAISED IN 2009-10

- \$6,600: 2008 Annual Appeal
- \$1,020: Ballroom Dancing Classes
- \$455: Events
- \$965: Market Day silent auction
- \$540: Grants
- \$17,300: Individual donations
- **\$37,000: Total**

### FIRST 2011 EVENT

Pot luck dinner for the community  
in the Brookfield Old Town Hall  
on Saturday, May 21

### WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

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

### Brookfield Community Partnership Board of Directors

Ted Elzey, *Chair*  
John Cole  
Curtis Koren  
Ed Koren  
Ron LaPerle

Steve Reid  
Charlie Zani

### Fundraising Committee

Billi Gosh, *Chair*  
Jon Binhammer  
Denise Holmes

### Events Committee

Denise Holmes, *Chair*  
Joanna Bodenweber  
Betsy Hale  
Linda Kelly  
Eric Nielsen  
Charlie Zani

### 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!**