



## Hello to our neighbors and all friends of the Brookfield Old Town Hall...

It's been a great year at the Old Town Hall, with the folks on the Events Committee scheduling fifty interesting, inspiring, and educational activities over this past summer. It is impressive how much that committee gets done, and I'm grateful for all the effort, energy, and enthusiasm they bring to filling the calendar.

The Brookfield Community Partnership's primary responsibility is the Old Town Hall, and the BCP's Board of Directors has undergone some changes this year. Leaving the board are Perry Kacik, Ted Elzey, Curtis Koren and Betsy Hale. Betsy also served on the Events Committee for a number of years. Their dedication and devotion to the vision of having a community center for all to enjoy led to the renovated historic building and numerous events that we have today. We also welcome new members to the Board: Judith Irving, Meredith Naughton and Linda Kelly. Linda has been, and continues to be, an active member of the Events Committee.

The Old Town Hall is maintained, and the programs are planned and presented by an all-volunteer group of hardworking people. This year the Board presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Linnea and Ron LaPerle for their untiring and selfless work for the hall and the landscaping over a period of many years.

The BCP also had the opportunity to apply for a grant from the Village Trust Initiative, which got our juices flowing about what we would do with access to the grant and what the logical next steps would be for the Old Town Hall. We formed a committee, who put together a proposal. Although we made it to the semi-final fourteen, we didn't get chosen to participate in this round of grants. We did, however, get some clarity on what our focus should be. Through the tenacity of the grant committee members, we are optimistic about our ability to find funding sources to help us progress with our goals for the Old Town Hall.

I want to thank Perry Kacik, who has worked as the interim Chair of the BCP Board of Directors for longer than he probably intended when he accepted the role. The Brookfield Community Partnership is stronger as a result of his leadership and vision. Navigating through the chaos of a global pandemic to lead a community group was not a simple task, and Perry was more than equal to the task.

Remember that you can rent the Old Town Hall for weddings, meetings and family affairs for a very reasonable amount. Our contact information is on page four of this newsletter.

I want to encourage each of you to take this opportunity to donate to our annual appeal. Your support is how we keep the lights on, pay for insurance and taxes, hire people for our programs and maintain the building. With each passing year the Old Town Hall becomes ever more vibrant and essential. We can all be proud to be part of an endeavor that will far outlive us.

Lastly, I want to thank all those sponsors, donors, committee members, and community members who make the Brookfield Old Town Hall a shining example of what's good in the world.

Thank you all,  
Dan OBrien, *Chair*, BCP Board of Directors



Perry Kacik, Past Interim Chair (l) and Dan OBrien, Chair of the BCP Board of Directors holding a Certificate of Appreciation for volunteers Linnea and Ron LaPerle.

## It was a very good year...



A Fun Preschool Play Date in August

Most of the programs are free to the public and it is both your financial support and volunteer efforts that make the Old Town Hall able to provide such amazing programs each year and continue to maintain and improve the building.

We only ask for your financial support once a year, so please take this opportunity to help financially support these fun and informative programs; as well as continue to improve the building for future generations to come.

From the June 8<sup>th</sup> Opening Potluck Dinner to Treat or Treat on Halloween, the Old Town Hall had a full and exciting season. The Events Committee (see names of committee members on page 4) worked hard to plan, set up and host events endeavoring to have “something for everyone.”

From Family Game Night, and Musical Munchkins; Bar Hill Brewery, and Fire Cider Workshop; Legislative Update, and Cookies for Candidates; to Wild Bees of VT, and Trees and Wilding; Hiking Through Europe, and Trip Around The World; “Flash” Gordon Sprague, and Vermont Musings, and SO much more, it is clear our community is fortunate to have the Old Town Hall and the programs it provides.



Dan Childs presents an exciting program about his trip around the world 1976-1978



Margaret Osha presenting her engaging program, “Vermont Musings”

## FUNDS RAISED

*October 2023 – September 2024*

<i>Individuals</i>	<i>\$9,905</i>
<i>Events</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Sponsors</i>	<i>\$9,750</i>
<i>Rentals</i>	<i>\$300</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24,955</b>

## FORTY-FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE OLD TOWN HALL



Curtis Koren

of hours stripping paint, cleaning floors, building a kitchen, putting in a bathroom, repairing the steps and cleaning windows, to name a few improvements. There is still much to be done, but from the first year, the hall has been a hive of activity offering a great variety of programs to children and adults alike.

Two people who were part the small group who bid on the building and helped form the Brookfield Community Partnership are now retiring from the Board of Directors. These two people are Curtis Koren and Ted Elzey. While they have both been involved in projects large and small, Curtis led the way in securing grants and working with foundations, while Ted was “hands on” with building projects and served as Chair of the Board of Directors since its inception in 2002 until 2021 when Perry Kacik took over as Interim Chair.

Hats off to these two dedicated members of our community. Thank you, Curtis and Ted, for all you have done to make Brookfield a terrific place to live.

When it was first learned that the Old Town Hall was coming up for auction in 2002, a small group of residents gathered to discuss how it might be purchased for use as a center of activities for the community.

On the day of the auction, the group gathered with the hope they would be able to make the winning bid. They were successful in their bid of \$102,000 and the Brookfield Community Partnership was born.

Many years of seeking grants from foundations, and donations from businesses and individuals followed until the dream of a few people became a vital part of the Brookfield community. Over the years, an untold number of

volunteers have put in thousands



Ted Elzey

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## THANK YOU, BILLI

Billi Gosh joined the Brookfield Community Partnership in 2002 as a member of the Board of Directors. Since then, she has worked on many and varied projects for the Old Town Hall including writing many grant proposals to fund the restoration of the building. For the past fifteen years, Billi has faithfully served as editor of this newsletter which has included interesting and informative reading, as well as providing for the annual fund-raising drive. While continuing to serve on the Board of Directors, at Billi's request, she will no longer be serving as editor of the *News*. [*Fifteen years is a long time to meet deadlines folks...ed.*] Her dedication, devotion and attention to detail will be difficult to follow. **Thank you, Billi, for a job well done.**



Billi Gosh

**Brookfield Community****Partnership**

P. O. Box 452

93 Stone Road

Brookfield, VT 05036

[www.brookfielddoth.org](http://www.brookfielddoth.org)[facebook.com/Brookfield](https://facebook.com/Brookfield)

oldtownhall

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Dan OBrien, *Chair*Betty Lord, *Secretary*Dan Childs, *Treasurer*

David Doda

Billi Gosh

Judith Irving

Linda Kelly

Peter Mancauskas

Meredith Naughton

**EVENTS COMMITTEE**

Allison Belisle

Nancy Doda

Marda Donner

Shelby Girard

Coltilde Hryshko

Linda Kelly

Susan OBrien

Emily Sferlazza

Laura Thygesen

**NEWSLETTER**

Betty Lord, Editor

*Our gratitude abounds.....*

Due to the generous donations of our business sponsors, we are able to continue holding numerous events without any, or with very little, costs to those who attend.

We especially want to thank The Frankenburg Agency as it continues to benefit the Old Town Hall with significant sponsorships and grants. Thank you again...and again.

Thanks also to EC Fiber for providing high speed internet for the OTH and for use by those who visit or hold meetings there.

And a big thank you to our other area sponsors: Bar Harbor Bank, Ben & Jerry's Foundation, Compucount, Eustis Cable, Gillespie Fuel & Propane, Green Mountain Power, Mascoma Bank, Northfield Savings Bank, Sprague Ranch, R. E. Tucker, Vermont Mutual Insurance and Washington Electric Coop.

**LOVE THE COMMUNITY EVENTS AT THE OTH?***Join Our Events Committee!*

We are seeking community members interested in participating in our community events planning committee! We are a fun and active group of community members who are passionate about helping our community gather, learn, play and share at the Brookfield Old Town Hall.

We hold very few meetings and accomplish a lot via email or quick phone calls. Our committee operates very efficiently and very cooperatively. It's a real pleasure to serve with this group, and you'll feel rewarded by your positive contributions to our community!

Please send a note to Linda Kelly at [lkellyvt@gmail.com](mailto:lkellyvt@gmail.com) for more information.