

# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume X, No. 1

September/October 1999

## RALLY DAY CELEBRATES SESQUICENTENNIAL

by Rachel Senechal

Join your friends and neighbors in celebrating our community and East Montpelier's Sesquicentennial on Saturday, September 11, 1999. Rally Day has something for everyone. Events occur throughout the day and end at night with a bang. Start the morning with a brisk run or walk in the **RALLY DAY RURAL RACE**. The kids race is 1k and the adults is 5k. Other morning activities include the **HOOP SHOOT, KIDS GAMES, DOLL-MAKING,** and **PHOTOS IN A FIRE TRUCK**. There will be a new twist on an old favorite: **BIKE DECORATING WITH RECYCLED MATERIALS**. We challenge kids to decorate their bikes for the parade using recycled materials found at home or using supplies that we provide at the Four Corners Schoolhouse. Our 11:00 **SESQUICENTENNIAL PARADE** is open to all residents who want to march, sing, float, or ride from the Four Corners Schoolhouse to the Elementary School. Rumor has it that the Elementary School staff and faculty may enter a float in this year's parade!

Immediately following the parade we've planned a special Sesquicentennial event: **A GROUP PHOTO OF EAST MONTPELIER PEOPLE**. We hope to have hundreds! Be part of this record of East Montpelier residents, young and old, in 1999! We'll meet on the EMES lawn. Copies of this historic picture will be available.

Another feature this year is the **CRAFT SHOW &**

**FARMER'S MARKET** showcasing East Montpelier residents.

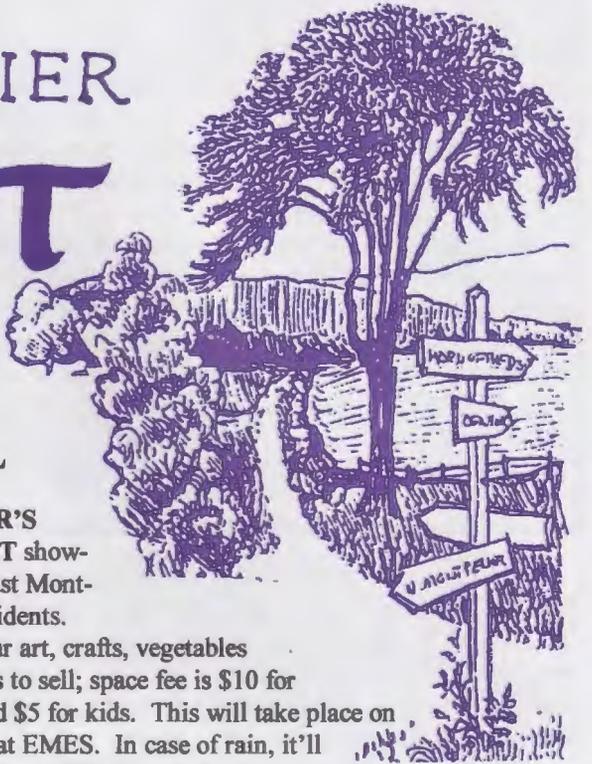
Bring your art, crafts, vegetables or flowers to sell; space fee is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids. This will take place on the lawn at EMES. In case of rain, it'll be in the gym. What better way to showcase the talents and tastes of East Montpelier?

Shutterbugs are encouraged to enter their photos in the **PHOTO CONTEST**. Categories include Friends and Family; Scenics; Close-ups; and new this year, Pets. Bring your photos to the gym for display. Popular voting will take place throughout the day and winners announced in the evening.

A good party has good food. Be sure to bring your appetites to Rally Day. We'll have breakfast and lunch. We're introducing another new Rally Day specialty: a lunchtime **DESSERT POTLUCK**. Modeled after the Town Meeting Day Potluck, we invite people to bring a dessert to share. It needs to be something that can be served on a napkin. Sorry, pudding won't work here. So share your favorite dessert and sample someone else's!

**MEMORY HOUR** at the Four Corners Schoolhouse will take a look at our past, "Old Photos and Their Stories". Look through your photo albums for pictures of early East Montpelier, people and places, and share the stories that go with the pictures. The tales are sure to bring laughter and wonder.

Afternoon activities include a **FAMILY SOCCER GAME, ART WORKSHOP, BIKE TOUR,** and the **CARROLL BADGER MEMORIAL HIKE**. Elliott Morse will shoot his **CANNON** at 1:45. The Fire Department will be celebrating their **35th ANNIVERSARY** with an **OPEN HOUSE** and demonstrations at the Fire Station from 2-4:30 p.m. The Recreation Board and 2 Barn Tennis will have information on their programs. The Old Brick Church will again serve the popular **LASAGNA SUPPER** at 5:00 p.m. \$6.50 for adults, \$3.50 for children.



(Continued on page 2)

## Top of the Signpost

The *Signpost* team has reached a milestone of which we are particularly proud. With this issue, we are entering our tenth year. Our first issue appeared in September 1990, and back then we counted our future in months, not decades. But now we are here, and we want to make this year's issues a bit special. By way of celebration, we plan to offer in each issue of Volume 10 some elements beyond our usual fare.

To launch this new volume, we include a brand new town map as an insert, hoping that many of you will save it in some way - mount it on your refrigerator, post it on a wall, or file it for future reference. It shows many new road names as required by the town's 911 preparations. On the reverse side of the map, you will find some other useful reference maps, plus a goodly collection of town statistics collected from many sources. Figures such as these tell us much about the changes that have

taken place during the *Signpost's* life. For the futurists among us, they may also predict a bit about East Montpelier's next decade.

When we reflect on this past decade, we have to conclude that some outstanding achievements in community building have occurred in East Montpelier. The current celebration of our Sesquicentennial is one of them. So is Rally Day, which celebrated its 10th birthday last September and is still going strong. What about our extensive and growing trails system, the envy of many other small towns? No small part of these efforts can be credited to the revitalized Recreation Committee and the contributions of countless volunteers.

This is indeed a fine town to live in for that elusive element which we call "quality of life". Treasure it and be a part of it. Jean Cate

The evening entertainment is reminiscent of how early East Montpelier residents would have celebrated: **A FAMILY CONTRA DANCE**. The dance is from 7-9 p.m. with refreshments sold by the PTNO. Just after 9 p.m. there will be an exciting finale to Rally Day. **FIREWORKS** donated by Dave and DeeDee Swenson will cap the day's events.

Of course, the *Signpost* **SILENT AUCTION** will be ongoing throughout the day. The donated items and services are high quality and benefit a good cause - the *Signpost*!

**SESQUICENTENNIAL PLATES** can still be ordered at Rally Day. The plates are made to order at Thistle Hill Pottery and cost \$25. Order forms will be available at the information table. **SESQUICENTENNIAL T-SHIRTS**, designed by Janet MacLeod, will also be on sale.

This year's Rally Day celebrates life in East Montpelier today and yesterday. Come join us in the celebration. It won't be the same without you.

### CONTACTS

Rally Day information - Rachel Senechal; 223-0539

To enter the parade please call Hobie Guion; 223-1808.

*Signpost* Auction donations - Jane Burroughs; 229-2107

To reserve space at the Farmers Market/Craft Show - Jennifer Boyer; 223-8926.

For information on participating in Memory Hour - Elaine Manghi; 229-5811 or Stanley Christensen; 223-5424.

### THANK YOU TO THESE LOYAL SUPPORTERS!

Nancy Couch

Kendal and Ruth Frost

Richard W. Hill - in memory of Esther

Augustine and Alberta Pacini

Ronald and Geneva Woodward

Gladys Dunkling

A. F. Heitmann

The Nist Family

Norma Raymond

The *Signpost* welcomes contributions. Any amount would be gratefully received \$5, \$10, \$25, even \$50. Send your donation to Anne Sherman, The *Signpost*, 315 Putnam Road, East Montpelier, VT 05651-4119.

All new contributors will be recognized in the next issue.

### EMES Sixth Grade Graduates

Chelsie Anderson Erika Blake Mathew Call Emily Carver  
Lars Chickering-Ayers Elizabeth Colburn Cindy Copeland  
Mia Crandell Daniel Cueto Crystal Doe Jordan Dunkling  
Alice Dworkin Milinda Fassett Paul Grant Brian Hackett  
Thomas Hamilton Elizabeth Huntley Rae Ann Kelly Brent  
Kievit-Kylar Sean Lusignan Christopher Massey Kristin  
McCormack Megan Mugford Seandell Parker Christopher  
Pollock Elizabeth Stephen Caleb Stone Maia Stone  
Rebekah Swenson Simon Terechin Kate Trono Bonnie  
Watson Walter Weeks Logan Wells Flint Wiswall  
Jason Wong

### U-32 Graduates From East Montpelier

Lauri Brewster Danny Carver Virginia Cook Lisa Crossman  
Matthew Curtis Joey Davidian Matthew Edwards Justin  
England Alec Foote Josh Goodine Emily Guilmette Karen  
Hambro Sarah Harvie Audrey Herzig Karen Hill Erin  
Hudson Sarah Kelley Caitlin Milazzo Richard Morey Tom  
Morse Bradley "BJ" Nutbrown Erin Redmond Matt  
Riportella-Crose George Robinson Sarah Robinson Kara  
Teschmacher Jake Urman Erik Wardle Terry Wilson

### EAST MONTPELIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society will meet Thursday, Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Four Corners Schoolhouse. This will be the annual meeting with election of officers. There will be video clips of Heritage Weekend held in June. All are welcome.

### OPPORTUNITY!

We'd like two volunteers to join the *Signpost* Committee. One job would be keeping the mailing list updated and printing the labels for each issue. Software, training and a printer are provided. All that is needed is an IBM®-format computer.

The other would be arranging for the feature interviews.

For more information please contact David Coburn 223-6886, Margaret Richey 454-7862 or Jean Cate 223-2951. No pay but lots of good company (and cookies)!



MILESTONES

Births

- >Arthur James Neddo, born April 18, 1999, son of Jennifer & Darrell P. Neddo.
- >Devin Andrew Burroughs, born April 25, 1999, son of Jane & Peter A. Burroughs.
- >Jeffrey Jarrett Laquerre, born May 7, 1999, son of Deborah & Jeffrey M. Laquerre.
- >Levi H. Poland, born May 20, 1999, son of Mindee & Nathan D. Poland.
- >McKenna Rae Farrell, born June 1, 1999, daughter of Buffy & Chester M. Farrell.
- >William Mabanta Heintzel, born June 9, 1999, son of Margaricia M. & Stephen J. Heintzel.
- >Anastasia Sabine Maenggun Middelton, born June 26, 1999, daughter of Amy Elizabeth Hinchcliffe & Shawn Ward Lesch-Middelton.

Marriages

- >Christopher A. Lamson to Crystal Lynn Ryan, married June 1.
- >Jake Brian Paton to Christine Joy Johnson, married June 12.
- >Jay Clark Warner to Megan Wright Dindo, married June 26.
- >Elisha Peter Tilton to Rei Yoshihara, married June 27.

Deaths

- >Catherine Agens; June 12, 1999, mother of Nancy Bisson.
- >Kathryn K. Moody; June 26, 1999, sister of Laura Brown.
- >Shaun M. Smith; July 1, 1999, son of James Smith & Susan Corbin.
- >Doris W. Fairbanks; July 5, 1999, spouse of Howard Fairbanks.

Land Transfers

- >Judy Cookson to Charles E. Hoffert IV & Michelle McFadden, 1 acre & dwelling, Clark Rd.
- >Byron G. & Camilla L. Hill to Byron G. & Camilla L. Hill, .61 acres & dwelling, Cummings Rd. (quitclaim deed)
- >Roland Frederick Nadeau & Alice Jean Nadeau Trust to Ross F. & Kim A. Nadeau, 7 acres, Center Rd.
- >Robert B. LaClair & Charlene E. LaClair to Sean K. Downey & Abigail Bruce, 8.1 acres, VT Rt 14S.
- >Gary W. & Connie L. Bryant to David K. & Catherine W. Herlihy, 10.1 acres & dwelling, Partridge Run.
- >Gregory Paul Carriveau to Stanley & Christopher Nutter, 4.9 acres & mobile home, Haggett Rd.
- >Hugh H., Susan W. & Dennis R. Hawkins to Douglas E. Wheeler & Heather M. Orcutt, 10.2 acres, Towne Hill Rd.
- >Gerald C. Jourdan Jr. & Jill E. Jourdan to Geoffrey Shadrouti, 5.2 acres, off Clark Rd.
- >Mark Hersey & Debra Randall, to Debra Randall, mobile home, Sandy Pines Trailer Park.
- >Hugh H., Susan & Dennis Hawkins to Michael R. & Kathleen H. Miceli, 10.4 acres, Old Farm Road.
- >Robert E. & Alice G. Smith to Robert E. & Alice G. Smith Trust, .49 acres, US Rt 2 village.

THANK YOU FROM THE BRAZIERS

Dear Friends and Neighbors,  
 Our family would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to those who helped us in so many ways after Tom's accident on June 30. Space will not allow us to list the many businesses and individuals who were there for us during our time of need. It is heartwarming to be embraced by a community that has shown so much compassion. Tom's road to recovery will be long and difficult.

Your thoughts and prayers have given us strength to face the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,  
 Tom, Ann, Jenna, Michelle,  
 Henry, Lena, Nancy, and Sean Hoar

SO, HOW'S HE DOING?

Busy folks can't take time to be laid up, but sometimes they are. We are all concerned about Tom Brazier's woods accident June 30 and how he's getting along. As of Aug. 10, he reports that he is gaining steadily, but nerve damage has given him limited use of his left arm. It is being monitored at Mass. General Hospital in Boston, but Tom is able to work part time on the farm and can drive tractor.

Contrary to Selectboard minutes elsewhere in this paper, he is already attending board meetings. Besides his town office, Tom is a founding member of the Fire Department, the Fast Squad, and the EMS; also he's active in negotiating the contract for the town's ambulance service. Not much time to be out of commission!

Peter G. Wonson

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# THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



## SELECTBOARD

*Tim Meehan, Chair,  
Edie Miller, Tom Brazier*  
**May 19, 1999**

- >Mike Garand reported that 550 tires were picked up on Green-Up Day.
- >There will be free removal of junk cars by the Solid Waste District during June.
- >Voted to have Mr. Garand work with the Four Corners Schoolhouse board to plan the necessary ditching and road drainage to correct the current problem.
- >Discussed recommendations of independent audit by Hull, Fothergill and Segale.
- >Approved ambulance contract with Barre Town.

**June 2, 1999**

- >Awarded winter sand bid to McCullough.
- >Discussed speeding on County Road.

**June 30, 1999**

- >Site visit to proposed Tay-Con Drive.

**July 7, 1999**

- >Approved tax rate of \$2.20, up from \$2.05 last year. Majority of increase due to U-32 project.
- >Approved ambulance contract with Barre Town.
- >Reviewed laying out Tay-Con Drive. Accepted as town road with change in specifications to provide 60 foot right of way.
- >Tom Brazier expects to be absent from meetings until October.
- >Approved name of Jourdan Road for Jourdan development road.
- >Reviewed Washington County Sheriff's report. Appears to be little enforcement on County Road. Chairperson Meehan will follow up with Sheriff Don Edson.

## PLANNING COMMISSION

*Carol Welch, Chair*  
**May 20, 1999**

- >Jon Winston provided U-32 expansion/renovations details. Application will be forwarded to the Board of Adjustment.
- >Accepted one lot subdivision of Michael Dworkin on Powder Horn Glen.
- >Accepted one lot subdivision on Center Road by Richard Angney.
- >Accepted annual permit application by Henry Parker.

**June 3, 1999**

- >Reviewed Notice of Hearing for Tay-Con

Drive off Rt 2.

**June 18, 1999**

- >Accepted proposal for addition to Morse Sugar Shack.
- >Accepted preliminary and final plat review of one lot subdivision of Richard and Alice Angney.
- >Accepted proposed addition to Delair's Carpet Barn on Rt 2 subject to new sketch plans being provided.

## BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

*Claudia Bristow, Chair*  
**May 10, 1999**

- >Approved application of Diana Chace to construct a barn on the same site as an existing barn on Sparrow Road.

**June 14, 1999**

- >Granted dimensional variance to construct a garage/studio to the rear of the house on Quaker Road that Timothy Joslyn is buying from Steven and Susan Sinclair.
- >Denied dimensional variance to Ritchie Dunster to construct garage on Towne Hill Road.
- >Approved Phase 1 of U-32 construction.

**July 26, 1999**

- >Dimensional variance granted for a two story addition to Christopher Karr home on Center Road.
- >Dimensional variance granted for temporary shed then a garage for Kenneth and Jennifer Ferno on Pine Ridge Road in Casavant Development.

## EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Jan Aldrich, Chair, Richard Curtis, Lisa Rice, Cheryl Rus, Nancy Thomas*

**June 3, 1999**

- >Peg Myer, Washington Central Supervisory Union Curriculum Director, presented proposals on professional development and student assessment to the Board.
- >Hired Ben Weiss for 5/6 teacher position.
- >Jan Aldrich gave update of Executive

Board. Title I funding dropping 5-10 % over district from last year.

- >Interest income is larger than anticipated. Fund balance is \$76,892.
- >Approved purchasing anthologies for second grade, four lockable cabinets, and stove.
- >Approved hiring a full time speech/language pathologist for one year.
- >Grant of \$1,653 for software for the hot lunch program through the VT Child Nutrition Program.
- >Approved Pam Dunkling using Music Room during the summer for piano lessons.
- >Approved Jason Aldrich and his music group using Music Room some evenings.

## U-32 JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL

*Tony Klein, Chair, and Ginny Burley,  
East Montpelier members*

**May 26, 1999**

- >Approved bid of Capitol Earthmoving, Inc. for Phase I site work.
- >Approved hiring Ethan Stephenson for 1.0 Middle School Social Studies, Kathy Mehuron for .5 Alternative Program Science position, and Barbara Kohn-Saxe for 1.0 Learning Specialist position.

**June 2, 1999**

- >Clarified role of Robbe Brook as overseer of the building project with ultimate responsibility including liaison with the state and assisting with permit processes.
- >Jon Winston will act as Clerk of the Works for Phase I.
- >Approved changing calendar to have no school Oct. 21 so teachers can attend the VEA day.

**June 16, 1999**

- >Accepted resignations of Sandy Cleary and Rosie Laquerre.
- >Appointed Paula Emery to H.S. Social Studies 0.6 FTE.
- >Awarded contracts for oil, banking services, milk, internet service provider, waste removal.

## EAST MONTPELIER TOWN OFFICE

Phone: 223-3313 Email: EastMont@together.net

Clerk-Treasurer - Sylvia Tosi

Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Pauline Coburn

Admin. Asst. - Marlene Betit (W & Th 9-5)

Asst. Clerk - Ginger Hopkins

PO Box 157, E. Montpelier, VT 05651 (Office Hours: M-Th 9-5, F 9-12 noon)



**HERITAGE WEEKEND**

by Elliott Morse

The last issue of the *Signpost* mentioned plans for a Vermont Heritage Weekend. I would like to report that the weekend was a great success, not only for us, but for 35 other towns. With a lot of planning and hard work, we presented the public with a little glimpse of yesteryear. The Four Corners Schoolhouse was turned into a mini-museum featuring artifacts loaned by generous townspeople. Crackers, bread and cheese were served under a tent to all participants. The bread products were donated by Paul and Elaine of Manghi's Bakery, and the cheese by our primary sponsor, Cabot Creamery.

Maurice Cerutti presented a look at early North Montpelier Village. It was a center of industry for years, and, in the beginning, was known as Rich's Hollow.

Next was a look at the Coburn Covered Bridge. David and Paulie Coburn gave the history of the bridge and also explained how it has been modernized, enabling it to serve us for years to come.

Events then shifted to East Montpelier Center where Wes Cate enthusiastically explained the 1849 split between East Montpelier and Montpelier. Fred Strong gave a history of the Old Meeting House, built in 1823 as a multi-denominational church and becoming stronger every day. Andy Christiansen led a singing group in early Vermont music. Some of the songs were written by Justin Morgan, known as the man who introduced the Morgan horse to Vermont. His songs can't help but let us see the sad times he was going through.

Washington Electric Co-op held an open house celebrating their 60th anniversary. Historic pictures were arranged by Dean Shattuck, a long time employee.

The weekend was wrapped up by a discussion of East Montpelier Civil War soldiers. This was done in the Cutler Cemetery by yours truly. We learned that East Montpelier contributed much to the Union.

In conclusion, we are all looking forward to presenting Heritage Weekend again next year. Plans have to be made, but we are excited!

**FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOCIATION**

Rachel Senechal, President.

- >Work will be done on the driveway.
- >Will send letter of thanks to Hannah Hamilton and Kate Heffernan for two weeks of free mowing.
- >Thanked Rachel for hanging plants at doorway.

**ACTING UP**

The play *Early East Montpelier*, first performed twenty-three years ago, will again be presented to celebrate the town's Sesquicentennial. Directed by Petie Ferris, this original historical play by Ellen Hill, Lyn Blackwell and Joanna Nichols depicts the trials and triumphs of the early settlers. Some of your neighbors and friends will be cast again in their original roles, some playing their direct ancestors. Just one more sign that East Montpelierites come from hardy stock!

Plan now to attend one of the two performances on Friday and Saturday evening, September 24 and 25 at U-32. Tickets will be on sale at \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children or \$15.00 for a family, available at the Town Office or at the door. Call the Town Office (223-3313) for reservations. It's not too late to volunteer to work on sets, properties, costumes or to sing in the chorus. Call Alban Richey at 454-7862.

**EMES PARENT TEACHERS NEIGHBORS ORGANIZATION**

The East Montpelier Elementary School PTNO is proud to host Susan Morse, nationally renowned animal tracker and wildlife habitat specialist, specializing in carnivores. The presentation will take place Thursday, September 30 at 7:00 p.m. Susan Morse will discuss the habits and ecology of wildlife species in our area, as well as conservation of those animals on a larger scale. She will also discuss her training course known as "Keeping Track", which trains volunteers to monitor wildlife habitat and collect data that will assist in land use planning.

This presentation will take place at the East Montpelier Elementary School auditorium starting at 7:00 p.m. The audience is invited to look at the many exhibits, such as animal skins, skulls, track molds, and sections of trees marked by different kinds of animals.

You can ask Ms. Morse or her assistants questions about the numerous exhibits. At 8:00 p.m. Ms. Morse will begin her slide presentation and lecture, which will last approximately one hour.

Admission is \$5.00 for adults, and \$1.00 for children. All proceeds will go to benefit the PTNO. Seating is limited. If you have questions, call Jim Shea evenings at 229-0625.



**CHURCH BELLS**



**OLD BRICK CHURCH**

*Rev. Marcheta Townsend, Pastor*  
Worship, Sunday School and Child Care  
11:00 am

**OLD MEETING HOUSE**

*Rev. David W. Connor and Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge, Co-Pastors*  
Worship, Sunday School and Child Care  
9:30 a.m.

**CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

*Rev. Bob Walton*  
Worship and Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

**CONSERVATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The East Montpelier Conservation Fund Advisory Committee would like to express its sincere appreciation and gratitude to an anonymous donor who graciously contributed \$250 to the Conservation Fund, along with the expressed thanks of: "Keep up the good work".

On behalf of the Town of East Montpelier, we appreciate your generosity and interest in the conservation efforts of the town.

Sue Chickering

## HISTORY OF OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

by Elliott Morse.

Prior to 1964, fire protection for the towns of East Montpelier and Calais was contracted to the City of Montpelier. This arrangement afforded some protection, but it wasn't always very satisfactory. City fire trucks, at that time, were designed to pump from hydrants. They carried only 200 gallons of water. If a fire was reported at Maple Corner, response took quite a long while. Back then some of the road wasn't paved. On reaching the house, which by then would be a major fire, squirting 200 gallons of water would do little good. Unless there was a pond or brook near by, then the old saying, "At least we saved the cellar hole," would again hold true!

People wanted something better but what? Montpelier's contract had a per hour rate for the one truck which would respond and a stipulation that the towns would pay for anything that got broken. At one time, Montpelier's truck got stuck on a back road, blew the engine and never arrived at the fire. It cost Calais lots of dollars for a new engine. In 1964, the contract was up for renewal. Montpelier announced that the per hour rate would be \$500. Actually, they preferred not to do this anyway.

One early morning, our neighbor Bob Simon stopped at our barn on the County Road. He was on his way home from a night spent as a Montpelier fireman. He suggested that we start our own fire department. We called a meeting at the East Montpelier Center School and agreed to become a nonprofit organization. Officers were elected, including Bob Simon, who would remain our chief for the next 16 years. We took up a collection, which soon purchased our first equipment.

Our first truck was an old petroleum tanker, donated by Seguin Fuel Oils. It was painted red. Joe Tofani hand lettered our fire department logo. The first fire to which we responded wasn't a major conflagration. Perhaps it was better this way, because the first burst of water contained some fuel oil! We continued holding monthly meetings, and little by little acquired other necessary equipment. One hundred fifty feet of hose and a portable pump cost less than \$500. Nowadays just a portable pump costs \$3,500!

Soon we contracted with Calais to provide them protection. The rate agreed upon was \$150 per hour for all men and equipment required. The Calais town dump was a great fund raiser. Each time it caught fire, we would receive money and buy more equipment. We operated out of a borrowed garage on County Road until 1967 when the town gave us \$5,000 to build a station. Alice Chapell donated some land on Templeton Road. With volunteer help, we erected our first permanent home.

Our first real pumper was a 1938 Ford. We agreed to try it out. Some members brought it home from North Springfield and that night it proved its worth. Jim Goodall's house burned and that little truck pumped for hours. Yes, we bought it!

Chief Simon knew firefighters from New York City to Canada, and he was always coming back with some older donated equipment, which we gladly accepted. As the years passed, we evolved from nothing to a well-equipped department. Our volunteers in number have ranged from 15 to 30. Our minutes of meetings from the last 35 years show that at least 200 people have, at one time or another, been members of the EMFD. Some of our former members have since passed away, including our long time assistant chief and charter member Bob Parker, who died at an early

morning house fire.

Recently we became a rescue and fast squad equipped with a rescue truck and also jaws of life. We now have a second station in East Village in space loaned by Washington Electric Co-op. In 1998, we added to our Templeton Road station. The town paid for all materials, but the labor crew, headed up by Calais' Sterry Leno, worked for free. With the demand for more trucks and equipment, we are now quite well funded by the towns. Our personnel donate hundreds of man hours.

IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 35 YEARS TOGETHER, WE WILL HOLD AN OPEN HOUSE AT OUR TEMPLETON ROAD STATION, SEPT. 11 FROM 2:00 - 4:30 P.M. COME JOIN US.

### Not Just Another New Year's Eve

by Sharon Gouveia

"Ten, nine, eight, seven!" December 31, 1999. This New Year has been like no other. The pantry is bursting with food, canned from the garden, stocked from the store. The bathtub, sinks and gathering tank are full of water. There are old-fashioned oil lamps out on the tables, extra wood in the shed, and, for the first time that any of us can remember, all the neighbors are celebrating together this year.

As we watch the ball drop in Times Square, I can only guess that we are all thinking similar thoughts this year. Are we properly prepared for whatever's coming in seven seconds? Did I can enough dilly beans? Purchase enough rice? Will our generator start when it's 30 below? Did I get enough money from the bank? Should I have taken it all? And what about that IRA I'm counting on for 2024, assuming we get that far?

"Six, five, four!" I'm not sure whether to drop to my knees and pray, check again that the flashlight has fresh batteries, hug the kids, or pop the champagne. I feel a little foolish about it, but my palms are a little sweaty. In four seconds, our world may have a major systems meltdown. Or not. I look around the house, mentally inventorying all that uses electricity. There's the stove, which although gas, uses electricity to light, the tv (some things I won't miss), the coffee maker (some more than others!), the refrigerator, the radio, the fans, the well pump, the lights of course, the furnace. Even our wood stove uses a fan to move heat around the house. In a secret, giddy fantasy, I imagine that all things invented in this century will suddenly no longer function, or possibly even exist. Will airplanes fall out of the sky, and who is riding in them on this night, anyway, and did they get a discount on their ticket?

"Three, two!" But at least we are all here together. In one second, we'll know something, anyway. At least, right now, over the last few months, we have come to know each other. Between us we have talents in mechanics, medicine, mediation and meditation. All of these things, and some from the rest of the alphabet, may come in handy in the days, months and weeks ahead. And in the years ahead, as we live with each other in this town, and on this hill, we are now more likely to call on each other, because of this particular New Year's eve, and that succession of zeros, and our human inability to see what's coming. "One!"

## A FARM TOWN PAST AND PRESENT by Mark McEathron



In late June, Stanley Christiansen sold the development rights on his 230 acre East Montpelier dairy farm to the Vermont Land Trust. For Stanley and many of his neighbors on Hammett Hill and Guyette roads, this was a thrilling event. But there is a bigger picture to be seen as well. Conservation of the beautiful hay meadows, scenic vistas and open lands was the latest accomplishment in an effort, spanning more than a dozen years, 20 properties and over 2400 acres of land, to preserve the agricultural heritage and character of East Montpelier.

The McKnight farm lies gently on the hillside along Snow Hill Road, its silos standing like silent sentinels against the blazing sun of summer and the bitter winds of January. The road splits the farmstead in two and, thanks to a little jog the road makes at the farm, the road appears to end in the dooryard. The view of this farm should be a familiar sight to most of us, given the number of times photos of this farm have graced the front page of the *Times Argus*. And, in many ways, it is all the attention the *Times Argus* pays to our East Montpelier landscape that, ironically, begins to explain the importance of land conservation in our town,

Not only is East Montpelier a quick trip for photographers needing a pastoral photo for a deadline, it's also a short commute for people interested in living relatively close to their jobs in Montpelier or Barre. As a result, the town sees pressure, sometimes light and other times very strong, for new residential development. In hilly, rocky Vermont, there is no place easier to construct a house and septic system, and few places with a nicer view, than a farm field. And East Montpelier, a high plateau with more farmland than many other surrounding towns, has been the perfect candidate.

This competing interest for open land in town was clearly recognized by the mid 1980's, and, by the end of 1988, three important events had occurred. First, the Planning Commission held a forum to engage residents in creating a vision for what they wanted the town to look like in 2010. From this, the Agricultural and Open Spaces Committee was formed to conduct a special study, called a Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA). Conducted primarily by an extremely committed group of volunteers, LESA analyzed a wide variety of natural resource attributes and other characteristics of every individual

field unit and open parcel in town. Large farms, therefore, would have multiple units each receiving individual scores. The final product of this work was a numerical score for each unit, as well as combined scores for properties with more than one field unit. This enabled the town to focus its conservation efforts on what it knew to be the most important properties. This has proven itself to be a valuable tool, with four of the top ten individual field units now conserved, and four of the top six whole farms. Further, the Committee recommended that the town create its own land conservation fund; the fund was established and \$40,000 appropriated for the fund at the 1989 Town Meeting.

Two conservation efforts also reached their conclusion in 1988. First, the final touches were placed on conservation of the McKnight farm, which had mostly been accomplished by the end of 1986. At the time of these efforts, the State of Vermont was not yet spending money to purchase development rights, so conservation could only be financed by facilitating the development of five houselots located away from the prime farm land. In 1988, however, the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board was created by the legislature to fund various conservation efforts statewide, and Center Farm, the farm with its small yellow barn just past the pavement in the Center, was the first farm in the state to be conserved by using VHCB funds. This started a steady pace of conservation which has continued since then. These conservation actions include John and Donna Hall donating development rights on the 46 acre cornfield across from the Vincent Flats Road baseball fields; the 1991 purchase of development rights on Austin Cleaves' 285 acre farm (later the primary farmstead of the Fairmont Farm partnership of Austin and the Hall families on Lyle Young Road); John and Polly Holden donating the development rights on 86 acres on Templeton Road; the 1993 bargain purchase of the development rights on the Bair farm on Center Road and the Chapell's Templeton Farm at the corner of Templeton and Center Roads; the 1995 purchase of development rights and federal mortgage debt exchange on 307 acres of the Sparrow farm on North Street, following an unsuccessful effort to conserve it 10 years earlier; an easement donation on 88 acres of land owned by the Hill family next to the Bair and Chapell farms; the purchase of development rights on the 187 acre Sibley farm with its well-known historic yellow barns; the purchase of development rights on 117 acres of field and forest, along with a highly popular trail crossing the property; the simultaneous easement donation by the Cates on an abutting 61 acres, all of which bring us to the Christiansen farm just a couple months ago.

If not for this early and well-organized start to conservation, East Montpelier would likely look quite different today. Instead, a critical mass of farmland and other lands has been conserved, providing stability for farmers, trail users, hunters and other recreationists benefiting by the graciousness of many of these landowners to allow public use of their land.

*Mark McEathron works for the Vermont Land Trust and lives with his family on Haggett Road.*

## COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDER

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Wednesday	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission	1st & 3rd Thursday	7:00	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2nd & 4th Monday	7:30	Town Office
Conservation Fund Advisory Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:30	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tuesday	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wednesday	6:30	U-32 High School
Elementary School Board	1st Thursday	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Monday	7:00	Town Office
Town Clerk's Office Hours	Mon-Thur: 9-5, Friday 9-12		Town Office
Zoning Administrator	Tuesday & Thursday	1-2:30	Town Office
Four Corners Schoolhouse Assn.	2nd Wednesday	7:30	Four Corners Schoolhouse

**Meeting times are subject to change.**

## EVENTS CALENDAR

Historical Society Annual Meeting	September 9	7:00 pm	Four Corners School
Rally Day	September 11	All Day	EMES
Fire Department open house	September 11	2:00 – 4:30 pm	Templeton Rd. station
Play <i>Early East Montpelier</i>	September 24 & 25	8:00 pm	U-32 Auditorium
PTNO Program on Tracking	September 30	7:00 pm	EMES Auditorium
Start of school	August 30		EMES and U-32
Y2K & Emergency Preparedness Planning	First and third Tuesdays	7:00 pm	Town Office

\*The EMES schoolboard invites community members to take part in the budget development process starting in October \*

## EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

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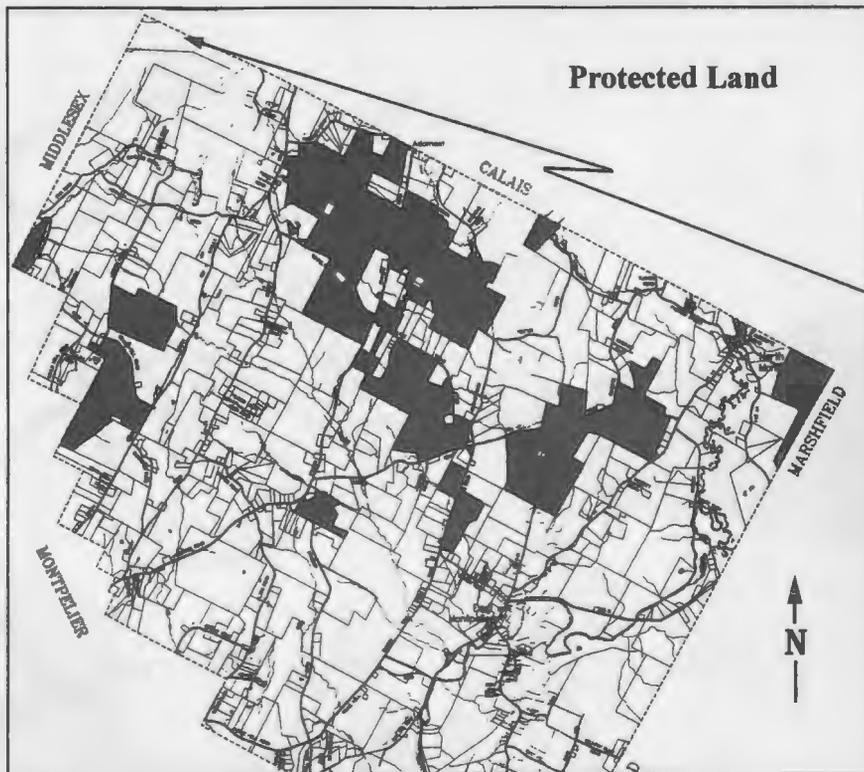
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**INSIDE:**  
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Fire Department History



## The Land

### Area

- 20,479 acres – 32 sq. miles
- 4650 acres in agricultural use (estimated)
- 2404.7 acres in conservation areas (Vt. Land Trust & Nature Conservancy)

### Elevations

- Highest: c. 1965 ft. – top of Long Meadow hill.
- East Village: 728 ft.
- North Village: 712 ft.
- Center Village: 1125 ft.
- Lowest Elevation: c.550 ft. – on Winooski River at the Montpelier City line.

### Comparisons

- A “township” in Vermont is 36 sq. miles.
- The elevation of Lake Champlain is about 100 ft.

## East Montpelier Trails

**1 – Town Forest – Peck Farm:** varied woodlands, beaver pond, farm lanes; 2.5 miles of gently rolling terrain; stream crossing.

**2 – Holden – Templeton:** woodland, fields, mountain views; 2 miles of gently rolling terrain.

**3 – Templeton – Fairmont:** farm lane, fields with mountain views, varied woodlands; 2.5 miles, two steep, 20 yard sections, one wet crossing.

**4 – Sparrow Farm – Montpelier:** flat farm fields, woodlands, descending steeply through old growth hemlock to Montpelier Recreation Field; 3.5 miles.

**5 – Cross Vermont Trail at Winooski Hydro dam:** flat, easy riverside walk along historic railroad bed; 1 mile.

*Color brochure with this map and additional information is available at the Town Office.*



East Montpelier Trails, Inc. \_\_\_\_\_

Cross Vermont Trail \_\_\_\_\_

Montpelier Parks \_\_\_\_\_

Existing Trails

Proposed Trails  
(routes unknown)



# East Montpelier



**Legend**

- Town Boundary
- Roads Classification**
- US/VT Road
- Paved Public Highway
- Unpaved Public Highway
- Legal Trail
- Subroad
- County Road

**Data Sets:**  
 Roads - 1:5,000 VDOT/911 Maps (1996-7)  
 Road Names - VDOT/911 Roads Names (1996,7)  
 Town Boundary - 1:5,000 Parcel Data  
 Map Created 7/21/2000 by J. Carol O'Neil

Data is only as accurate as the original source materials.  
 This map is for planning purposes.  
 This map may contain errors and omissions.

**GIS**  
 CENTRAL VERMONT  
 REGIONAL PLANNING  
 COMMISSION

## MAPS AND OTHER INTERESTING STUFF ABOUT OUR TOWN

### Population – U.S. Census

1850	1447	1930	965
1860	1328	1940	1025
1870	1130	1950	1128
1880	972	1960	1200
1890	953	1970	1597
1900	1061	1980	2205
1910	985	1990	2239
1920	918		



	Parcels of Land	Grand List	Tax Rate	
			School	Town
1989-1990	762	\$ 868,141	\$1.62	\$0.40
1990-1991	765	889,672	1.60	0.46
1991-1992	771	911,407	2.00	0.35
1992-1993	778	932,565	2.06	0.47
1993-1994	787	929,851	2.17	0.40
1994-1995	797	1,291,381	1.72	0.38
1995-1996	807	1,265,516	1.79	0.39
1996-1997	820	1,286,091	1.73	0.40
1997-1998	829	1,294,455	1.55	0.50
1998-1999	844	1,319,287	1.65	0.55

	Housing Units	Housing Starts
1990	762	8
1998	844	17

School Enrollment		
Year	EMES	U-32
1989-1990	254	208
1990-1991	249	217
1991-1992	225	242
1992-1993	246	236
1993-1994	233	231
1994-1995	216	250
1995-1996	227	253
1996-1997	236	241
1997-1998	229	217
1998-1999	241	204



We thank the several statisticians who provided us with these figures: Rosie Cueto in the Listers' Office, Zoning Administrator Roger Chapell, the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and the Regional Planning Commission. Sue Sinclair from Regional Planning is responsible for getting us the new town map on the reverse side and Jamie Carroll actually prepared the map. We hope you will find it useful.