



NEWSLETTER

TIME CAPSULE AT STEPHENTOWN ELEMENTARY DISINTERRED

In 1984, as part of Stephentown's Bicentennial Celebration, a time capsule was buried in the front lawn of the Stephentown Elementary School. It was to be opened in 2034 for the 250th Anniversary of the town. With the school building and land up for sale, the capsule, a full size burial vault donated by Norbert Steggeman was disinterred in June by Aldie Goodermote, Town Highway Superintendent. Sam Catalano, Hall & Higgins Funeral Director inspected the vault and pronounced the seal to be intact.

On Saturday morning, June 8, the cleaned vault provided the backdrop for a ceremony that was attended by about 60 people. Of these people, five were members of the 1984 fifth grade class who worked with the Stephentown Historical Society to fill the vault with 1984 memorabilia. The students were Jarrid Brazie, Kristan Cummings Simpson, Dena Brown Duvall, April Geerholt Smith and Mike Williams. According to a newspaper article of the time and Historical Society records, the vault includes a menu from Picolo Mondo Restaurant, a calendar from the F.N. Brown Insurance Agency, a State Trooper's uniform, Dave Desormeaux's order book, dog biscuits, a railroad spike, an "I Like Ike" pin, horseshoes by Charles Giumarra, an Agway newsletter, some White-Out, Mr. Lewin's ice skates, a Wheaties box, a stamp book, a Post Office badge, a Taconic Telephone book, 1980 Olympics stamps, school books, a Rubix Cube, some Dove soap, Kay Hoffman's Girl Scout pocket calendar, fifth grade artwork, a Teen Titans comic book from Nancy Reagan, Bazooka Squeeze bubble gum and Becky Gutermuth's report of an interview with

local residents and their speculations about transportation change.

Instead of opening the vault on June 8, 2013 as planned, it was decided that the Town Highway Department would store the vault until it is returned to the ground on the Stephentown Memorial Library property. A stone with a bronze plaque that marked the location on the school grounds will be relocated to the new burial site.

Historical Society President, Bill Zimmerman introduced guests at the ceremony. They included fifth

grade teacher, Victor Lewin, head teacher from 1976 to 1990, David Sicko, Principal of the Berlin Elementary Schools and of BCSD, current Town Supervisor Larry Eckhardt, Berlin School Board President James Willis and other former teachers at the school.



Mike Williams, Kristan Cummings Simpson, Dena Brown, Duvall, April Geerholt Smith and Jarrid Brazie.

Recollections of memories of the teachers and Mr. Lewin's paddle were discussed. Dave Sicko gave a brief history of the school that was opened in 1948. Larry Eckhardt mentioned that more important than the artifacts "are the memories of teachers, fellow students, parents and staff that are embodied in this time capsule".

A second time capsule, from the 1948 building dedication, was reworked in 1998. At the ceremony it was given to the Historical Society for safekeeping until its scheduled opening in 2048 on the 100th anniversary of the Stephentown Elementary School.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

On Sunday, June 23, the Stephentown Historical Society hosted its 32nd Annual Strawberry Festival from 11:00 to 4:00 at the Berry Patch on Route 22. Sunny skies, a light breeze, and temperatures in the mid to high 80's whetted people's appetites for strawberry shortcake, ice cream, strawberry-rhubarb pie, and chocolate-covered strawberries. By the end of the 5-hour festival, around 190 people had enjoyed



strawberries, shortcake, ice cream, homemade pie, and chocolate-covered strawberries. Thanks to members of Petersburg Boy Scout Troop 222 and their families and the Kirsimagi family for picking over 220 pounds of strawberries and to our hullers and bakers for their efforts in preparing the homemade



delicacies enjoyed on Sunday. For many visitors, the event was a delicious substitute for lunch. For the Historical Society workers, it was a lot of hard work,

camaraderie, and an addition to the treasury. The money raised helps defray the expenses of heat and other facility maintenance,

the semiannual newsletter, and monthly programs at the Heritage Center. The Stephentown Historical Society would like to thank the people of Stephentown and neighboring communities as well as passers-by who took time out of their busy Sunday to enjoy the fruits and labors of Stephentown and its Historical Society. Thanks also to SHS members and others who toiled long and hard to provide, prepare, and serve the delectable desserts, Dale Riggs and Don Miles for growing the strawberries and providing the facility, and corporate sponsors Stewart's, Price Chopper, and Big Y for their product donations.



In Memoriam

Katharine Potter

1912 – 2013

Helen Rice Kenyon Johnson

1926 - 2013

THE HERITAGE CENTER is open and staffed by The Stephentown Historical Society most **Fridays From 1 pm to 4 pm**. Visit to see the exhibitions and carefully catalogued artifacts from the local area. Alternate appointment times can be made with Curator Bev McClave at 733-5170.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY TAG SALE

Following a 6-day heat wave the Stephentown Historical Society held its annual Community Tag Sale on Sunday, July 21. We postponed the event for the first time in recent memory. The weather for the scheduled Saturday was questionable, with forecast scattered showers, which barely materialized briefly in the early morning, but the clincher in the postponement was the sixth humid day above 90 degrees. Sunday was a very pleasant relief weather-wise.

Attendance was down a bit from previous years, but we had a decent day with the usual 9 o'clock rush and quite a few people stopping by after church. We never completely clear the tables, but, as usual, we found second homes and second lives for many, many items that otherwise would have languished in the darkness for another year or more. And we made a decent profit for the Society while providing a venue for running into old friends and catching up on some of the latest news.

A big thank you to Co-chairs Millie Smith and Bev McClave and the several ladies who sorted and priced the sale items on Friday afternoon. Thank you also to the other vendors and to the donors who sorted through their closets, garages, and other places to provide us with the treasures to resell.



Fifth Grade Class of Stephentown Elementary School 1983. How many of these students do you recognize? Photo Courtesy Stephentown Historical Society Album.

PROGRAMS FOR THE STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2013

September 9 –
Stephentown Schoolhouses
Pat Flint and Marilyn Osgood

October 7 –
The Unsinkable Mollie Brown
Phyllis Chapman

November 4 –
Mohican Artifacts
Rene Wendell

December 2 - Arnold on Arnold:
How Benedict Arnold Won the American
Revolution - Robert Arnold

FIELD TRIP Saturday, September 21 -
Knickerbocker Mansion
Carpool from Heritage Center at 10:00 -
Cost \$10.00



Phyllis Zwinge Craib, who played in the band at the 1948 dedication ceremony for Stephentown Elementary School.

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Phone: 518-733-6070***The Heritage Center is open from 1 to 4 p.m. on Fridays and by appointment.******It will be closed for the following dates in 2013:*** Presidents' Day (2/22), Good Friday (3/29), Memorial Day (5/24), Strawberry Festival (6/21 tentatively), Independence Day (7/05), Tag Sale (7/26), Labor Day (8/30), Columbus Day (10/11), Veterans' Day (11/8), Thanksgiving (11/29), Closed for the Month of December

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