



Cavendish Community and Conservation Association

Our Vision: CCCA is committed to a vibrant Cavendish/Proctorsville community that supports its human and natural resources, building a legacy of health, integrity and vitality for future generations.

**Fall '09
Newsletter**

Volume No. 6, Issue No. 3



A Message from Robin



Welcome to the 2009 Fall Newsletter, and a wonderful Holiday Season to all!

During our last board meeting we reflected upon the year that has passed, and where we are now as we look towards 2010. There is no doubt that the CCCA has settled into a few channels of service. The first is the Cavendish Community Fund, now in its third year of giving grants to Cavendish people and organizations for educational or cultural projects; and the second is the Sustainable Cavendish and the Cavendish Conservation Committees which, as you will see below, have taken

on various tasks and continue to evolve as we learn more and respond to arising needs. Also, since the closing of the Cavendish Grange CCCA has hosted a local Meet the Candidates night before each election.

In the past few months a few new developments regarding special permitting have come to our attention. In the first one, a Cavendish resident is seeking a permit to build a private helipad on his land off Heald Road. His request was denied by the Vermont Department of Transportation. Because Cavendish does not have a zoning board, the Department of Transportation must have a recommendation from the Select Board regarding the Town's approval or disapproval of this project. The Select Board sought input from the Town Planning Commission, and after reviewing relevant information, decided to disapprove the project. Without the Town's approval, the applicant's petition

is considered incomplete and can not be granted. The applicant has since filed an appeal with the Department of Transportation.

A second request, to sell bulk water from the premises of The Cavendish Inn, has been filed with the Act 250 Commission and has already undergone a hearing which the Planning Commission attended. According to Tim and Peter Jefferson, proprietors of the Inn and applicants for the permit, professional studies show that neighbors' wells will not be impacted and there will be no negative effects on the Black River. The water would be piped to a transfer tank from a well on the hill above the Inn. A restricted number of tanker trucks, about eight a day, would truck the water to an undetermined bottling location. Further discussion and another hearing is expected.

On another environmental note, it is a great pleasure to report that, according to a study by the Cavendish Town Elementary School's 6th graders THE BLACK RIVER IS HEALTHY!

The report on the CTES website <http://www.ctes.wswsu.org/CTES6th/BlackRiverREandMP> says that students found many healthy animals and identified them in the classroom. They discovered that there are creatures that are sensitive to pollution, and creatures that aren't. If sensitive creatures are found, it is an indication that a river is healthy, if not, the river is probably polluted. The 6th graders also took chemical tests of the water, the results of which are published on the site and which show that our river is in good health. Their rapid bio-assessment included mayfly, caddisfly, stonefly and damselfly larva, many crayfish, minnows, green frogs (no deformities noted) a helgramite (nasty guy that kept

attacking everything), water striders and spiders and one leach. They kept their samples for a few hours and two of the crayfish mated!

The CCCA Conservation Committee applauds the CTES 6th grade and their teacher Robin Bebo-Long for contributing to our community's awareness of our environment and our beautiful, healthy Black River. Route 131, which runs alongside the river, is designated a scenic highway because of the river's beauty and the river is a popular waterway for fishing. In a poll taken by the CCCA a few years ago, the Black River received the greatest number of votes for most beautiful places in Cavendish.

Robin Timko, Chair of CCCA

News From The CCCA **Sustainable Cavendish** **Committee**



The CCCA Sustainable Cavendish Committee was formed last January and has now run several events in town including Earthweek 2009 last April and Button Up Vermont in October. (See the story above.) The committee is interested in helping the town of Cavendish improve our municipal infrastructure to take advantage of the advances in alternative energy sources

and improved weatherization methods. Much of what is now available in the way of solar, wind, geothermal and other sources is considerably cheaper than in recent years and there are a substantial number of grant possibilities for towns. This includes access to the federal government's economic stimulus money and state funds too.

However, in order to access this money, the state and federal governments require a municipality to demonstrate its commitment through existence and activity of a town energy committee. The committee is expected to administer a town energy policy. Cavendish lacks both the committee and the policy.

To carry its interest through, and to help Cavendish access available improvement funds, the Sustainable Cavendish Committee approached the Cavendish Select Board and offered to act as the town energy committee. This would include drafting an energy policy for the Select Board and to helping to identify energy and money saving steps to take in Cavendish. It will also include helping the town to secure grants and stimulus funds to implement infrastructure changes. If you are interested in being part of this new initiative, please contact Karen Wilson at Karenw381@cs.com or 802- 226-7494.

**Cavendish Community and
Conservation Association
Board of Directors**

Robin Timko
Deborah Harrison O'Brien
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CCCA Sponsors
Button-Up Vermont



A Vermont Home Energy Savings Campaign

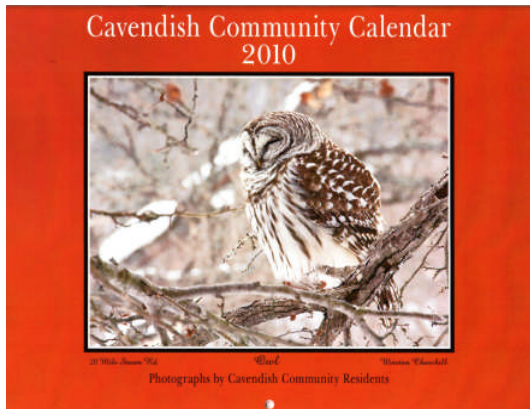
This year CCCA through the Sustainable Cavendish Committee joined with the Town of Cavendish to sponsor "Button Up Vermont" a home energy savings workshop on Tuesday, October 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the Cavendish Town Elementary School on Route 131 in Proctorsville.

The workshop was presented by Central Vermont Community Action Council with the support of Efficiency Vermont and the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network and with funding from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

The workshop taught residents about the fundamentals of how homes lose energy, simple do-it-yourself measures for incremental energy savings, significant saving opportunities associated with extensive energy retrofits, and available technical and financial resources.

The workshop consisted of a PowerPoint slide presentation, speakers on energy-related topics, and the showing of a short DVD on do-it-yourself weatherization measures. CCCA provided door prizes and refreshments.

CCCA 2010 Calendars
On Sale Now



*2010 Cavendish Community Calendar
 On Sale Now!*

In the last issue we told you about the winners of the 2010 Cavendish Community Calendar Photo Contest. Well, many of those pictures are now hanging on display in the meeting room at the Cavendish Town Offices and will remain there through the coming year. Please stop by and see what your fellow citizens see as iconic photos of Cavendish today. Meanwhile the photos that were chosen for inclusion in the 2010 calendar are now available for all to see since the calendar has been published. It's not too early to stock up on calendars for the coming year. They make great stocking stuffers for the coming holidays and all of those friends and relatives living elsewhere can enjoy our scenery all year long.

Calendars are available at Crow's Bakery and Opera House Café on Depot Street in Proctorsville and at the Cavendish Town Offices on High Street in Cavendish. They cost \$12 each.

Not Just Calendars for Sale!



Display rack with Hans Schrag original Note Cards at Crows Bakery and Opera House Café.

New this year, CCCA has expanded the list of Cavendish based items that we offer with the inclusion of beautiful, full color note cards with pictures taken in Cavendish. These cards are perfect for your old-fashioned correspondence needs and as holiday gifts. There are dozens of delightful photos taken by our own Hans Schrag. These cards are available for purchase at Crows Bakery and Opera House Café on Depot Street in Proctorsville. Cards are \$3.50 each and 4 for \$12.00.



CCCA "Barns of Cavendish" Poster is on sale now just in time for the holidays.

As we reported in our last issue, CCCA has produced a poster showing a variety of barn scenes, all taken in the town of

Cavendish. The pictures are a mix of village and rural barns, all still standing as of today, but many teetering on the edge of oblivion. We don't know how long many of these barns will last, but for sure the poster will be here to remind us of the deep agricultural roots in this town. Pick up a copy and get some for friends and neighbors who don't get to enjoy such rural beauty where they live. (It's also fun to determine whose barn is pictured.) The poster is 11"x14" with a glossy finish and is suitable for framing. The price is \$8 and they are available with the other CCCA merchandise at Crows Bakery and Opera House Café on Depot Street in Proctorsville.

Cavendish and Proctorsville Water is Finally Clean



For far too long the residents of the Cavendish and Proctorsville villages have waited for the day when clean water again flowed from their taps. Well, the wait is over, and the water is clean again. The new Cavendish water filtration plant is on line and gone are the manganese and iron that seriously affected water quality. Recently the town flushed all hydrants in the system and all homeowners should have flushed their own pipes. By now even the excess air that had invaded the system when the plant came on line has mostly

cleared and water quality is normal. Continuous monitoring of quality is in place and the Water Board has gone back to bi-monthly meetings.

Cavendish Community Fund News



Guess who made the cake!

The Cavendish Community Fund officers and staff thank all individuals who attended the benefit dinner on August 1st at the Cavendish Inn for their generosity. The fundraiser was an unqualified success, both socially and financially. Attendees were treated to a wonderful dinner and even got to enjoy it outside on one of the nicest Saturday evenings in an otherwise wet summer. The goal of the dinner was to raise enough money to fund two rounds of grants, one in the fall and another next spring. We met the goal and can move forward with confidence in paying for more programs and events in the coming year.

The Fund provides modest monetary grants for projects, programs and events of an educational or cultural nature in Cavendish. Since its inception in 2007 CCF has funded twelve programs ranging from an archeological dig and a movie series, to concerts on the Green and teacher training. Several recent

recipients of grants spoke to the dinner guests to describe their experiences and to thank the fund for its support.

Without local support there is no way that these various events would take place. With the local support received this summer the Fund will continue its tradition of semi-annual grants in the fall and in the spring. Although the Fund will accept grant applications at any time, we set deadlines for each round of grants. The latest deadline was November 1st and we are now in the process of awarding those grants. The next deadline will be announced in a few months. Meanwhile we encourage grant applications from anyone who has an idea for a program or class or event that will benefit the people of Cavendish. If you are interested in applying for a grant, don't wait for the deadline, apply anytime.

For more information about CCF or the application process, please call Peter LaBelle at 226-7250, or Barbara Dickey at 226-7187.

Reports on Spring 2009 Grants:

Last issue we described the last three grants that we distributed – one to Fiber Arts in Vermont to teach a class at the Six Loose Ladies Fiber Arts store in Proctorsville, a second to the Fletcher Community Library to run the Concerts on the Green series on the green in downtown Proctorsville and the third to Leslie Hensel-Browning and Rebecca Salem to teach a children's workshop at the elementary school.

We have received feedback on the three projects and we share some of that feedback with you now. The class at Six Loose Ladies attracted some dedicated fiber arts students who worked with

instructor Alice Fogel on September 26th to create new fashions from old clothes. The idea was to exercise the students' creativity and design capabilities as well as their sewing and fiber skills to re-make old clothing items into something that had new life. The class turned into a veritable fashion fest and the students thoroughly enjoyed their new and stylish creations. The folks at Six Loose Ladies intend to continue the educational process with other classes for Cavendish and non-Cavendish residents. Other classes as they are scheduled are advertised in the local newspapers.

The Concerts on the Green series this year was a huge success for those who came to hear the music. Unfortunately, the weather was not cooperative and one event ended up inside. CCF funded two of four concerts – One by Gypsy Reel and the other by Yankee Chank. The performers gave high quality performances that delighted those present. This was the first year that the Cavendish Community Library sponsored the concerts and CCF was very happy to have been a part of the events.

Educators Rebecca Salem and Ashley Hensel-Browning led a series of yoga and choreography workshops this fall at Cavendish Town Elementary School free of charge to students thanks to the generous funding of the Cavendish Community Fund. Eighteen students from CTES participated from grades kindergarten through 6th. They had originally requested a class of 16 but increased the size due to interest. Still unable to accommodate all the potential interested students, they ultimately had a waiting list of 5 students. Classes included a variety of experiences exploring both yoga and dance but always included a physical focusing

warm-up, breath work, a yoga practice, creative movement and improvisation, as well as dance-making in multi-age groups. The last class, October 13th, served as a family day. About 12 family members were present and many participated in some of the activities as well as cheered on their young ones as they shared their choreography. Families asked questions about the class and what they could take home and continue practicing with their children. Rebecca and Ashley encouraged the kids to share their perspectives and offered their own. They also included some exercises that would be fun and engaging to do at home.

The class was a success in both participation and understanding. Students came away with a basic understanding of yoga and self-exploration as well as dance, dance-making, and working with others. There was much interest in future classes as well as possible classes happening during the school day in collaboration with classroom teachers. This has the potential of encouraging more movement exploration during the school day.

The CCCA Mission Statement

The CCCA is a non-profit membership organization that is dedicated to the conservation of land and natural resources and to the preservation of historic sites within the context of sustainable economic growth. Its commitment is to promote understanding and learning that engages and benefits all members of the Cavendish/Proctorsville community, now and in the future.

Calling All Members!



Happy Fall!

I know that we are getting awfully close to winter and I hope that all of our members have enjoyed the spectacular foliage this year. We've been very busy in all of our various jobs lately, both in CCCA and in the rest of our lives. But we found time this fall to put out a beautiful line of note cards that I urge everyone to see. Also, please take a look at the Barns of Cavendish poster. It is striking and attractive and will grace any wall. Both of these and the annual Cavendish calendar are available at Crow's Bakery in Proctorsville. The price of each is nominal, they make great gifts, and proceeds go to a great cause.

We have also been working on a variety of energy issues in Cavendish, including recycling and weatherization and alternative energy systems for the town. We can always use help with these committees and welcome any interest by Cavendish residents. We even have second home owners working with us, since some of the things that we do require work that can be done from anyplace (like your kitchen table) and using e-mail and telephone.

Not a member? Not a problem! If you are interested in helping us, we are interested in meeting you. If you are interested in joining CCCA, please

contact Deb at 226-8086 for more information.

Dues are a nominal \$35 per year for full membership. In order to join CCCA, please fill out the information below and send with a check payable to Cavendish Community and Conservation Association to:

Deborah Harrison O'Brien
c/o: P.O. Box 605
Cavendish, VT 05142

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____