

TALES OF TINMOUTH

April 2017
Vol. 31 Number 4

Tinmouth
Vermont

Editors' Notes: The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month, for publication on the 1st of the following month. Please email your information to *Tales of Tinmouth* (tinmouthtales@gmail.com) or drop it off at the Town Office. Any submissions missing the cutoff date may be included in the following month.

Pat Psholka, Helen Mango, Sherry Johnson



Tinmouth Plant Sale May 13 Volunteers needed to dig and pot May 6 and 7

Hello gardeners and volunteers: The famous Tinmouth Plant Sale will happen on its traditional day – the Saturday before Mother's Day, which is **May 13** this year – from 8-10 a.m. We will be selling locally grown and dug perennials to benefit the Tinmouth Scholarship Fund. This event is the primary fundraiser for Tinmouth Scholarships. In 2016 we awarded \$9,500 to nine scholars. Help us continue and grow! Together with our annual fund contribution, and a one-time contribution from the Tax Stabilization Fund when the school joined the Mill River District, the Plant Sale is a key fundraiser for Scholarships, and you can help us be able to support our scholars again this year.

We welcome diggers (those who can dig and donate special perennials that are weed-free). We need to manage varieties and quantities, so please call or email me before you dig! Special arrangements can be made for delivery of plants on different days if that is helpful.

We are looking for volunteers to pot and mark plants on **Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7**. Typically our diggers drop off plants on Friday and Saturday morning and we pot on Saturday and Sunday. We strive to have all our plants potted and marked the week before the sale.

We need potters at 143 Channel Road on **Saturday, May 6**, from noon to 5 p.m. and Sunday morning until we are done. No experience necessary! We work in any weather, so come prepared to be outside (that could mean hats and gloves or sunblock and lemonade). A quick email or call to let me know you can help would be appreciated so I know how many folks to expect.

We always accept donations of plastic pots 5" or larger. Please: no clay pots, 6 packs or hanging baskets. Round

and square pots only. Pots can be left on the porch at the Town Office, or dropped off at 143 Channel Road.

From the Tinmouth Gardening Team – thank you!
Questions: call Cathy Reynolds at 446-2928 or email eworks@vermontel.net.

Green-Up Day Saturday, May 6, 2016 By Doug Fontein



Hello neighbors, it's that time of year again. We'll be doing Green-Up from the Tinmouth Transfer Station on **Saturday, May 6**, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Please join us for this yearly sprucing up of our town's roadsides. We'll meet at the transfer station at 9:00 a.m., get Green-Up bags and pick a section of road to clean up. At 11:00 a.m., we'll reconvene at the transfer station to dump the trash and enjoy free ice cream.

There is also the do-it-yourself version where you get your bags and road assignment beforehand from the town office and green up at your convenience. You can stop by the office the week before Green Up during town office hours.

The school will also be doing Green Up on a day to be coordinated with the school staff. The school undertakes this event as a yearly community service effort. Contact the school for a date and time.

Your volunteer efforts to help keep Tinmouth beautiful are most appreciated. For more information, call Doug Fontein 446-2928, Nelson Jaquay 446-2367, or Ed Hasenohr 446-2676.



Calendar of Events



APRIL

Dog Licenses Due	Saturday 1st	9:00 a.m. - Noon	Town Office
Library Open	Saturday 1st	9:00 a.m. - Noon	Library
Fire Department	Thursday 6th	7:00 p.m.	Fire House
Concert	Friday 7th	7:00 p.p.	Old Fire House
Writers' Group	Sunday 9th	1:30 p.m.	Library
Select Board	Thursday 13th	7:00 p.m.	Town Office
Breakfast (All are Welcome)	Sunday 16th	7:30 a.m.	Church
Easter Service	Sunday 16th	9:00 a.m.	Church
Income Taxes Due	Tuesday 18th		
Homestead Declaration	Tuesday 18th		Due to VT Dept of Taxes
Planning Commission	Thursday 20th	7:30 a.m.	Town Office
Tales of Tinmouth Deadline	Monday 20th		Don't Miss It!
Contra Dance	Friday 21st	8:00 pm	Community Center
Book Discussion	Sunday 30th	3 p.m.	Library



MAY

Fire Department	Thursday 4th	7:00 p.m.	Fire House
Concert	Friday 5th	7:00 p.m.	Old Fire House
Green Up	Saturday 6th	9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Tinmouth Roadside
Select Board	Thursday 11th	7:00 p.m.	Town Office
Annual Plant Sale	Saturday 13th	8:00 a.m.-10 a.m.	Next to Town Office
Planning Commission	Thursday 18th	7:30 p.m.	Town Office
Contra Dance	Friday 19th	8:00 p.m.	Community Center
Tales of Tinmouth Deadline	Saturday 20th		Don't Miss It!
Conservation Committee	Monday 22nd	7:30 p.m.	Town Office(upstairs)
Concert	Friday 26th	7:30 p.m.	Old Fire House

Town Office will be closed Saturday, May 27th and Monday May 29th (Memorial Day)

Sunday Church Service 9:00 a.m. ~ All are welcome!

Transfer Station hours are Wednesday 4:00 - 7:00 pm & Saturday 8:00 am - noon.

Library Hours ~ Monday 9:30-noon & 1-5 and Thursday 9:30-noon

Special Saturday Library Hours April 1st (first Saturday of the month)

Fun "non-competitive" Volleyball on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm.

Kripalu Yoga, Thursday 5:30-7:00 pm \$10 per class Bess Lewis, Instructor, Community Center

Congratulations



Welcome to Tinmouth's newest arrivals –

Welcome to **Avery Joseph Allen**, born on February 15, 2017, son of **Joshua and Ilona Allen**, he joins big brother **Carter**. Proud grandparents are **Mike and Fern Allen**.

Ryder Hume –Pfeiffer-Leeds was born on February 23, 2017, son of **Robbie Leeds and Nichole Pfeiffer**.

And to **Alyvia James Hill**, daughter of **Jaid Drake and Ron Hill Jr.**, who arrived on March 11, 2017. Proud grandparents are **Jennifer and Ron Hill Sr.** Congratulations and best wishes to all.



Congratulations

Congratulations to **Grant Reynolds**, he and wife Jo recently traveled to Stowe to attend the Vermont Ski Museum's opening display of "Skis from the Grant Reynolds Collection".



Get Well Wishes

Get Well Wishes are sent **Rene Wilbur, Stuart Gerrol, Penny Jaderlund, Carol Baker, Kevin Ruane, Gunner Morris, and Lisa Barrett**.

Sympathies

Heartfelt sympathies are sent to family and friends of are sent to family and friends of **Gene Cosco** (long time Tinmouth Ponder), and to **Theresa Parker and family** for the loss of her brother **Buddy**.

You are in our thoughts and prayers.

~Homestead Declaration~

This is a reminder that you need to file an annual Homestead Declaration with the Vermont Department of Taxes, form HS-122. You must file this to qualify for the homestead education tax rate and to request a property tax adjustment if you are eligible. You must also file form HI-144 (household income), due April 18th. This is required even if you do not have to file or pay state income taxes.



~Dog Licenses~

A current rabies certificate is required. You can call the Town Office if you don't know if your dog needs a shot or not. Fees are \$9 for neutered/spayed dogs and \$13 for those that are not. 50% penalty is assessed after **April 1st**.

Stop by the Tinmouth Town Office when you're done to get your dog's license – open until noon.



A few reminders from the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department

At Town Meeting, Fire Chief Mo Squier stressed the importance of having a fire extinguisher. Here are some tips for homeowner.

Call for help before attempting to extinguish a fire. A fire may grow out of control more quickly than you anticipate. It is wise to have help on the way.

Determine a safe evacuation path before approaching the fire. Do not allow the fire, heat or smoke to come between you and your evacuation path.

To use a fire extinguisher correctly, experts say that one should remember the acronym **P.A.S.S.** –



P: Pull the pin.
A: Aim at the base of the fire.
S: Squeeze the trigger.
S: Sweep side to side.

- ✓ Keep your back to an exit so that there is a viable means of retreating from the fire.
- ✓ Stand at least 8 feet from the fire and begin PASS.
- ✓ If the fire does not extinguish immediately, leave the fire.
- ✓ Have the fire department survey the area to ensure the fire has been extinguished and that there are not concealed areas where a fire could be smoldering.
- ✓ If an extinguisher is used (even partially), it needs to be recharged or replaced.



Town Meeting Poem to honor Glenn W. Merrill

By Marshall Squier

On the side of Tinmouth Mountain on his family's hill side farm,
Glenn and his siblings worked hard every day, but that life had its charm.

Walked a couple of miles to the South School, sometimes minus 20 degrees,
Lillian Gilmore from the farm to the north, taught him his ABC's.

Glenn and brother Ralph, worked the farm after their dad passed away,
New folks, the Squiers on the farm up the road, "Let's go help with the hay".

A lasting friendship, a welcoming to this special town,
Glenn's still doing it, ask anyone around.

Glenn and Dot, you just said it together,
both willing to help in any kind of weather.

Mary Jane, JoAnn and Glenn, their children learned the lessons of this peaceful, slower pace of life,
Working at GE, still running the farm, "Let's go on a short vacation somewhere", pack-up the kids and his wife.

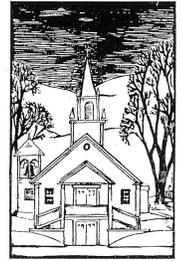
Select Board, Planning Commission, all the boards in town,
Justice of the Peace, weddings held all around.

Glenn has been Fire Warden more than 55 years,
Keeping people aware, be careful do it right and there will be no tears.

Glenn was one of our first fire fighters, helped form the department fifty years ago this fall,
And no matter what he was doing, Glenn always answered the call.

So thank you Glenn for sharing your generosity, thoughtfulness and kindness to all of us in old Tinmouth town.
Like the spring on the farm, ever giving, we are glad you are still around.

~Tinmouth Community Church~



TINMOUTH CHURCH

Dear Friends,

Often over the college spring break, Gary and I travel down to Florida to visit my Dad. This year our visit brought home to me the profound affect the choices we make have on creating our lives. On Sunday near the end of our visit, I was swimming in the ocean, enjoying sunshine and warm temperatures. The very next day we would be leaving for Vermont where a blizzard was expected. Dad and his friends just smiled at us and shook their heads. It was strange, knowing that we were intentionally going to face a storm.

Back home on Tuesday, while Gary and I were feeding the wood stove to keep our house warm, my Dad was enjoying a game of golf in short sleeves. Now, I know all about the fact that there are different regions and varying weather, but there was something unsettling about living through the contrast in such a stark way. It hit me that we really do choose the life we live.

On a purely physical level, we choose the kind of weather we are willing to put up with, whether we come down on the side of swimming in the ocean or shoveling snow. We choose whether we will live in mountains or deserts, forests or near the sea. We choose whether to stay close to family or to move to some new place, seeking our own adventure. We choose the kind of communities we want to be a part of, and, hopefully, we do our share to help build a good, strong, welcoming community wherever we do go.

Each of the choices we make helps to shape our lives, and they shape us as well. As I write this, we are in the midst of the Christian season of Lent, which is a time of reflection. I often take Lent as a period of time in which to think a little more deeply about my life. It is a time to recognize the control I have over certain aspects, and the way that my choices create this particular life. It is also a time to come to grips with the fact that there are many things over which I have absolutely no control, and to open my mind and my heart to this as well.

We live our lives in the middle of these two very powerful realities. There is wisdom in learning how to negotiate a life between them. This negotiation, this movement toward balance, does not have to be a heavy-handed thing, it can be more like a dance, more of a joyful recognition of what is in our hands and what is not. We can create a beautiful balance in our lives between taking responsibility when we can, and letting go and living into the moment with grace and gratitude when we cannot.

I think Reinhold Niebuhr had it right when he wrote:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

Blessings as we each seek serenity in our own way,

- Shirley

P.S. Everyone is welcome to join in worship at Tinmouth Community Church any Sunday morning at 9am. There is always a delicious fellowship hour afterward too!



~Library News~
Ruth Drachman

Spring is coming! Read while you are waiting!

Writing group will meet on Sunday, **April 9th** at 1:30 p.m. at the library.

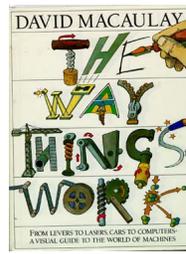
Our book discussion group will meet on Sunday, **April 30th** at 3:00 p.m. at the Library to discuss the author E. B. White. Participants may read whatever interests them by E. B. White. He wrote essays, and some well-known books for children: *Stuart Little*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *Trumpet of the Swan*. You may also read biographical material. There is a marvelous new biography of him called *Some Writer!, the story of E.B. White*. All of these books are available in the Tinmouth Library. Discussion leader is Nelson Jaquay.

New for adults for April

- ❖ *The Sleepwalker* by Chris Bohjalian, “a spine-tingling novel of lies, loss, and buried desire.”
- ❖ *In This Grave Hour* by Jacqueline Winspear, the story of Maisie Dobbs continues.
- ❖ *On Turpentine Lane* by Elinor Lipman, a romantic comedy which has been called funny, poignant, and a little bit outrageous.
- ❖ *A Man called Ove* by Fredrik Backman, a comical and heartwarming tale of a curmudgeon, a feel-good story.

The library will be open on Saturday morning once a month. Look for the librarian to be there on the **FIRST** Saturday of every month from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The date in April is Saturday, April 1st. The date in May is May 6th.

The library is open on Monday and Thursday, from 10:00 a.m. until Noon, and from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.



Author and Illustrator David Macaulay at Rutland Free Library

David Macaulay, award-winning author and illustrator of *Castle*, *Cathedral*, and *The Way We Work*, will discuss current projects and challenges in his work in a talk at Rutland Free Library on **April 5** at 7:00 p.m., in the Fox Room. His talk, “Life in the Studio,” is part of the Vermont Humanities Council’s First Wednesdays lecture series and is free and open to the public.

David Macaulay is an award-winning author and illustrator whose books have sold millions of copies in the United States alone, and his work has been translated into a dozen languages. Macaulay has garnered numerous awards including the Caldecott Medal and Honor Awards, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, the Christopher Award, an American Institute of Architects Medal, and the Washington Post-Children’s Book Guild Nonfiction Award. In 2006, he was the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, given “to encourage people of outstanding talent to pursue their own creative, intellectual, and professional inclinations.” His many books include *Castle*, *Built to Last*, *Cathedral*, *The Way We Work*, and most recently *The Way Things Work Now*. Superb design, magnificent illustrations, and clearly presented information distinguish all of his books. David Macaulay lives with his family in Vermont.



~Tinmouth Elementary School News~
School Benefit

The fifth and sixth grade class are having a "Little Caesar" pizza sale to benefit their class trip. Order form available at the Town Office or you can contact the school (446-2458) or me (235-3434). Thank you for your support. Shirley Bucceri

The Tales of Tinmouth is now Online!

Would you like to read the Tales of Tinmouth online? Go to the town’s web site tinmouthvt.org, click on About, which the second item from the left, and select Tales of Tinmouth from the drop down menu.

School Board Presentation Town Meeting - March 4, 2017

by Grant Reynolds

(Tinmouth member of the Mill River Unified Union School District Board)

Originally I planned to start right out talking about taxes. But's what's more important is, how are the school and the Mill River school district doing? Very well. Maureen has recreated the warmth our school is known for. The teachers are working hard at learning a new curriculum in language and math, as are all the teachers in Mill River Union. This is not related to the merger; it was going to happen under the Supervisory Union too. But it has meant a lot of extra time and work for them. Thanks, folks.

The new District is doing very well. You probably heard that the School Board got a state-wide award for school board leadership. It really was for the Study Committee and the five previous boards, who stepped up to the plate to design our own District. We didn't hire any consultants, saving the state a \$20,000 grant. We are running pretty much the way we always have, but with a lot fewer meetings. The Board members have been cooperative and friendly. No factions have developed yet. Superintendent Dave Younce and his staff have done a tremendous job of jumping through the state's hoops and redoing our administrative systems to create a new district in just 4 months.

With the end of school we will be losing one of our longest serving teachers, Karen Kay – Ms. Kay. Some of you had her; some of your children too. She has been dedicated to the students and the school. She will be missed. We wish her the best in retirement.

In the convoluted mechanism of Vermont school financing, you vote on expenditures. That's all the money we spend, regardless of source. So about 20% comes from grants of various sorts, the largest being for Special Education. The rest comes from the State Ed Fund. None comes directly from Tinmouth or Mill River Taxpayers.

The tax rate is based on the District's cost per child. Obviously it goes up if we spend more. But we are spending almost 3 percent less. This is Governor Scott's level funding, achieved without any help from him. But we also have 34 fewer students, so our cost per child is up 2.77%. Some of that loss of students is artificial, based on the way the state counts students. The state figures Tinmouth has 74 students, when there are actually 50 at TES and 30 at Mill River or grandfathered tuition students. In State counting, high school students are weighted at more than one student and PreK, where Tinmouth has a lot of kids, are only half a student.

Under the Brigham decision and Acts 60 and 68 the state pays every town's budget, no matter what it is. Then it imposes a property tax based on cost per child.

There's no connection between the amount of taxes collected in the town and the school budget. If the state gets several times a district's budget, as it does in Killington, great. It uses the difference to pay, among others, us. For we are a receiving district, getting more money than the state collects. Remember that when Gail collects the school tax she is working for the state, at darn poor wages. She's working for the town when she collects the town tax – even though they are all on the same tax bill.

So, get to the point. How much?

Your homestead tax rate is essentially the same as last year. Our cost savings pretty well balanced out the loss of students. So the district tax rate is up a miniscule amount, 13 one/hundredths of a cent, from 1.5045 to 1.5058. That's a couple of dollars on a \$150,000 house. The state adjusts town school tax rates to compensate for differences in town assessment practices. However, the owner of that \$150,000 home will pay the same dollar amount in all of the Mill River towns, except Shrewsbury. It had artificially low tax rates, and catchup is limited to 5% a year. Next year they'll pay the same as we all do.

If you pay based on income, and two thirds of us do, the school tax percentage of your income is down from 2.87% to 2.7%. On a \$45,000 income you'll pay \$76 dollars less than this year. How do you know that's how you are paying? In the upper left corner of the tax bill there is a line that says "state payment." It is subtracted from your tax bill. The number represents the difference between the homestead tax on your house and 2.7% of your income for last year.

There are two other questions on the school ballot: First, shall we create a Sinking Fund, which is a savings account for unanticipated building repairs and major maintenance, and put \$50,000 in it? It will increase the tax rate less than one cent. All but Tinmouth had such a fund, and we had a Tax Stabilization Fund. While the District acquired these sinking funds, the Board decided to use them exclusively on the school they were originally created for. Our fund was transferred to the town. So we need your approval to have a district fund, available for work on all five buildings, for the future.

Second, shall we put any unanticipated surpluses in it? School budgeting uses too many unknown numbers to expect it to come out even. We don't know how many students there will be, or in what schools or grades, until next October. We don't know what the legislature will do between town meeting and adjournment, but we know they'll act long after we had to lock up the budget in January.

A yes vote on both questions will help us better manage buildings and grounds maintenance in the future.

~Ads Policy for Tales~

We would like to clarify and update the ad policy for *Tales of Tinnmouth*. Ads must be submitted by the 20th of the month. We would prefer either a PDF, scan-able image or text. It is best if your ad has a light background, as it will copy better. In order to keep ads current, starting with the July 2017 issue, ads will be run six months at a time. So ads received in time for the July 2017 issue will run through the December 2017 issue. If you then wish to continue the ad for January 2018 through June 2018, you will need to email the editors at tinmouthtales@gmail.com or drop the scan-able image off at the Town Office. If you want an ad to run for less than six months, just let us know. We can help you lay out your ad, but in that case would need to have the ad by the 10th of the month. While we carry ads without charge, donations are greatly appreciated. We do not invoice or bill for ads.

~Large Print Option for Tales ~

Do you or do you know someone who has trouble reading the *Tales or Tinnmouth*? We are offering *Tales of Tinnmouth* in a large print version. It will not have graphics and will be a single column. Please call the town office if you would like your copy changed to large print.



Department of Fish and Wildlife's Green Mountain Conservation Camp

If you are 12 to 14 years old and want to learn about Vermont's wildlife and gain outdoor skills, consider attending one of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's Green Mountain Conservation Camps next summer. The one-week camp program is held at two locations -- Lake Bomoseen in Castleton and Buck Lake in Woodbury. Campers participate in hands-on learning experiences about fish and wildlife conservation, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, swimming, canoeing, fishing and more in an attractive outdoor setting. Natural resource professionals come to the camp during the week to share information on their programs and take campers out for field activities.

Vermont's conservation camp program is unique because it is sponsored and directed by Fish & Wildlife professionals -- the same people who manage Vermont's fish and wildlife resources. Working biologists, foresters, game wardens, and conservation educators teach young people about Vermont's forests, wetlands and wildlife. The program's greatest strength is connecting young people to the outdoors. The camp program is sponsored in part through a grant from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

Conservation Camps open June 18 and continue until August 18. Tuition is \$250 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment. Please check the Fish & Wildlife website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) for information, including scholarship availability. A printable application also is available on the website. Whether you register online or on paper, it is important to read the information section before the application. It contains policy, refund, cancellation and billing information that you need to know.

For more information about Green Mountain Conservation Camps contact: fwgmcc@vermont.gov or call 802-828-1460.

Tinnmouth residents can apply through the Tinnmouth Community Summer Camp Scholarship Fund for additional help. Applications on line at <http://www.tinnmouthvt.org/k-12-scholarship-application/>. See the article on scholarships on page 10 of this issue.



~Tickets for Old Firehouse ~
Tickets for Old Fire House Concerts

The Tinnmouth Community Fund awarded a grant to provide some FREE tickets to concerts at the Old Fire House for their Spring and Fall Concert Series.

There will be five tickets available for each of the nine concerts. They will be handed out on a first come first serve basis, if more than five folks are interested, names will be drawn from a hat. One ticket per person for the series.

The five Spring Concerts were published in the March *Tales* and information is available on the town's website -- tinmouthvt.org or you can visit

www.facebook.com/TinnmouthOldFirehouseConcerts/

If you wish to attend one of these, please call the Town Office (446-2498) to be put on the list, you will pick up your tickets at the door the night of the event.

Any questions, please contact Gail Fallar at gfallar@vermontel.net.

~Tinmouth Old Firehouse Spring Concert Series~



Bill Staines Opens The Tinmouth Old Firehouse Season Friday April 7th

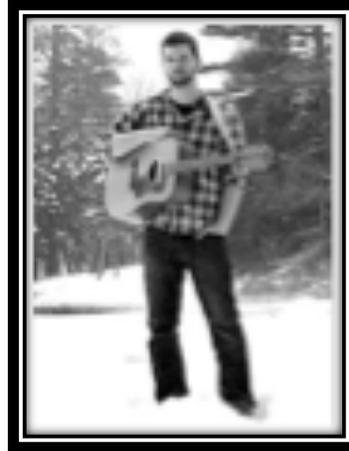
Bill Staines has been playing and singing folk music for 40 years. Most of the songs are his own, but many have passed into music history without his name on them. Bill's performance last May drew the biggest crowd in Firehouse history, and we can't wait to have him back. That's not just because the Old Firehouse Crew loves a crowd, but because we love hearing Bill ourselves.

Bill's music is a slice of Americana, reflecting with the same ease his feelings about the prairie people of the Midwest or the adventurers of the Yukon, the on-the-road truckers, or the everyday workers that make up this land. Many of Bill's songs have appeared in grade school music books, church hymnals, and scouting campfire songbooks; he is one of only a few songwriters to have eight songs published in the classic song collection, Rise up Singing. Composer David Amram recently described Bill as "a modern day Stephen Foster...his songs will be around 100 years from now."

A performance with Bill has even more than his classic favorite songs. In 45 years of touring he has collected a marvelous inventory of funny stories, which he doesn't hesitate to share with his audiences.

Bill Staines will be the first concert in the Tinmouth Old Firehouse Concert Series, at 7:30 on April 7. Come early! If the house is full we'll have to close the doors, and weather may not permit outside seating.

The Old Firehouse is at Mountain View Road and Vt. 140 in downtown Tinmouth. Doors will open at 7 PM. There is a suggested donation of \$10 to \$15, 90% of which goes to the performers. Home made desserts, coffee and tea will be available. Donations for them will help support community activities.



Alex Smith brings Adirondack Mountain Sounds to the Old Firehouse

~Friday April 21

Alex Smith grew up in Long Lake, in the heart of New York's Adirondack Park, and his music strives first and foremost to echo the people of that area. He builds songs from a blend of traditional folk harmony and strikingly modern lyrics, confronting today's most pressing issues with grace while paying homage to the masters who came before him. Alex is new to the Firehouse, but the Crew listened to his recordings and is delighted to be able to present him. Smith's mother is a historian and his father is a writer and boat builder. Their influence is evident in his attention to detail: each of Smith's characters, though fictional, lives and breathes a balance between beauty and imperfection. His stories draw on the triumphs and hardships of friends, relatives, and neighbors near and far.

Alex Smith is the second concert in the Tinmouth Old Firehouse Concert Series, at 7:30 p.m. on **April 21.**



TINMOUTH CHURCH

Everyone Is Welcome in This
Community of Worship and Faith
TINMOUTH COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Service – 9:00 a.m.
Rev. Shirley Oskamp, Pastor

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors



Congratulations to Toby and Anne Lewis for recently being recognized as the runner-up for the 2016 overall Highest-Quality-Milk Award for Vermont. They have managed the Lewis Farm for 35 years. They milk 20-25 cows that are primarily Jerseys and Ayrshires.

The Highest-Quality-Milk Award winner and runner-up were recognized by the Vermont Dairy Industry Association at the Vermont Farm Show in January. This award is present to the dairy farmers (cow and goat) who produce Vermont's best quality milk.



~Friends of the Tinmouth Fire Department~

A group of individuals who want to help out our brave men and women firefighters and junior firefighters. We are looking into ways we can help nourish them while on calls.

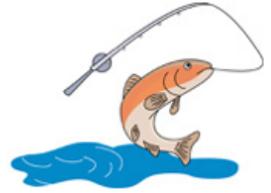
If you are interested in helping out, or would like to learn more about this new group, please contact Ingrid Lepley 446-2900 hikings@vermontel.net. We are planning our first meeting soon. It will be announced on Front Porch Forum.



~Nature Notes~

Whew, what a March so far!! Came in like a lamb – though very much on the cold side, a whopper of a snow storm on the 14th & 15th – two feet or so and then the wind (yes, yes, March is a windy month), blew off shingles from some folks houses. Oh, the poor little snow drops that so happily sprouted up and bloomed in February – they were covered with the snow, but now are slowly melting out, looking very droopy and sad. Tulips and daffodils were also poking their noses toward the warm sun – tasty tidbits for a nearby rabbit living under the front deck, I'm afraid.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife seeks 'Let's Go Fishing' program instructors



The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is seeking volunteers who would like to become 'Let's Go Fishing' instructors so they can pass on Vermont's fishing tradition to the next generation of Vermonters. The department will be hosting a free one-day training workshop for new instructors on Saturday, **April 15**, at the ANR Annex building, 190 Junction Road, Berlin, VT.

Instructors in the 'Let's Go Fishing' program organize and instruct clinics in their communities for young people and their families. Participants in the training workshop will learn how to teach a fishing clinic, in addition to learning about fishing ethics, aquatic ecology, fisheries management, habitat conservation, and tackle craft. The class is informal, and it is not necessary to have a high level of fishing expertise to become an instructor.

There is no charge for the training and all curriculum materials and lunch will be provided. The workshop runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Pre-registration is required, and you must be 18 years of age to participate. Register by **April 10** by calling 802-505-5562 or emailing letsfishing@vermont.gov



Contra Dance with Nimble and Luke Donforth calling
Friday, **April 21, 2017**, at 8:00 p.m.
Tinmouth Community Center, 573 Route 140

Dance to the splendid tunes of Nimble, which is Shirley White on fiddle, Rachel Clark on flute and George White on guitar, with calling by Luke Donforth, on **April 21** from 8-11 p.m. at the Tinmouth Community Center. All dances are taught, and you do not need a partner. If you are a beginner, come right at 8:00 p.m. for a beginner's lesson to learn the moves. There will be live music, enthusiastic swinging and dancing, and a fun night for all.

The dance takes place in the Tinmouth Community Center, located on Route 140 in the center of Tinmouth, five miles west of Wallingford. Please bring clean, non-marring shoes. Admission is \$10-\$12, \$8 for teens and free for children 12 and under. Refreshments will be available to benefit the dance fund. More info at tinmouthcontradance.org. Like us on Facebook at

Tinmouth Contra Dance. Shine up those dancing shoes and bring a couple of friends to dance with! Our email is tinmouthdance@gmail.com.

We dance every third Friday January through May and September-December, although our November dance is always the Friday after Thanksgiving to accommodate the Game Supper. In May we will be dancing to local favorites the Shrewdberries from Shrewsbury with Lausanne Allen calling. See you in Tinmouth!

From BROCC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont

BROC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont would like to acknowledge and thank the voters for their support of appropriation requests this year. BROCC-Community Action served over 10,000 low-income individuals who reside throughout Rutland and Bennington Counties last year. The funding received through the town meeting process helps with fuel, electric and housing needs (and other) for those who may not qualify otherwise. These individuals and families usually need a one-time financial assist to get them through a tough time and sometimes this funding is used in conjunction with other means to put together a financial assist, especially for housing needs. "Town funding" is even used to purchase steel-toed work boots for folks who need them to get a job and can't afford them or for the purchase of appropriate work clothing to go on interviews.

BROC-Community Action expressed great appreciation to the voters in these town for their support: Benson, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Middletown Springs, Mount Holly, Mount Tabor, Pawlet, Pittsford, Poultney, Proctor, Rutland City, Rutland Town, Shrewsbury, Sudbury, Tinmouth, Wallingford, Wells, West Haven and West Rutland.

For information about the programs and services provided by BROCC-Community Action, visit www.broc.org, like them on Facebook, or follow them on Twitter (@BROCTALK).

~ Front Porch Forum ~ Connect with your Tinmouth Neighbors

Need to send out a timely announcement? You can use Front Porch Forum. Announcements are sent out the next day to everyone who has signed up.

To sign up, go to <http://FrontPorchForum.com>. Or stop by the town office to sign up!! 200+ households have signed to date! Good way to discuss community issues, sell a canoe, give away a kitten, etc.. If you are a second homeowner you can use your 911 address.

~Tinmouth Community Fund Scholarships~

The summer camp season is nearly upon us, and some folks in town are making plans for post-high-school education, so it's time for the Tinmouth Community Fund to remind people that **scholarships** are available. Visit the Community Fund page of the Town website (<http://www.tinmouthvt.org/community-fund/>) and learn more about camp scholarships (click on the "K-12 Scholarship Information" link) and higher education scholarships (click on the "Post High School Scholarship Information" link). Last year the Tinmouth Community Fund awarded almost \$700 in camp scholarships and \$9600 in post-high-school education scholarships to residents of Tinmouth.



~Marion's Musings~

Marion is on break this month.

~Meeting Highlights~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

Select Board ~ 03/09/17

Present were members Cathy Reynolds, Matt Patry, and Frank Sears as well as Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Kim Harbaugh, Sherry Johnson, Laurie Phillips, Grant Reynolds, and Gail Fallar- Board Assistant.

Annual re-organization of the Board ~ Frank was elected Chair; Regular Monthly Meeting – 2nd Thursday at 7:00; Newspaper of Record – Rutland Daily Herald; Adopted Robert's Rules for Small Boards; Designated the Chair (Frank) to sign Bills and Orders; Authorized Frank to sign overweight truck permits; and Appointed Frank to the Community Center Board

Agenda was reviewed, Gail added transfer station issue, Grant asked to speak about the old town sheds – agenda amended as requested.

Eric advised the road crew is ready for the big storm predicted for next week, some mud holes have been filled with rock. Matt noted some folks have raised concerns about the number and size of pot holes in the gravel roads, Eric is working on them. He noted that only a handful for so of folks showed up for the open house at the town garage.

Frank reported that the town garage was briefly discussed at town meeting; voters did authorize use of last year's transfer to be used for highway buildings.

Board discussed next steps in regards to the town garage – engineering is needed for water and septic permits, and general layout of the site. Should the transfer station operations be re-structured at the same time? Where should the new building, the salted sand shed, the septic field, recycling, solid waste disposal, etc. be located? There was some concern voiced at town meeting by folks looking at a proposed building that it was butt ugly – could a wooden structure be built instead of metal? Is this project too big for volunteers? Board decided to hold a special meeting to discuss use of the town's 11 acre lot and these issues on Thursday, March 23rd at 7:00 PM.

Grant spoke to the condition of the old town sheds which is a town structure. The southern end needs attention as the roof is drooping and the Tinmouth Historical Society and the Town has some nice stuff stored there. After brief discussion and a faint recollection of a life-time warrantee issued by Marshall Squier when they were last restored, a phone call was made to Marshall. He advised that the guarantee had been on the slate as at the time there was discussion about removing it and replacing it with metal. He advised that he is willing to jack up the roof and check for any roof leaks. Cathy noted that the Board is willing to pay, the sheds are a town building.

Personnel Policy – Board will review comments made by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns HR department, reviewed changes to Addendum C (benefits) made at the last Board meeting. Frank expressed concern of the cart being place before the horse in regards to the approval of those changes, as the Board has not yet met with employees to discuss them, the 10% premium co-pay in particular. After further discussion, Board decided to meet with employees concerning benefits in Executive Session at 6:00 PM on the 23rd.

Board made annual appointments. Additions this year include adding Sherry Johnson to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and adding Grant Reynolds as a Fence Viewer.

Grant requested appointment as a fence viewer, Matt moved, Frank 2nded, Cathy re-cused. Board approved list as presented, all in favor.

Board appointed Pat Psholka to fill a vacancy (created when Carmen Fallar moved out of town) on the Board of Listers – term expires next year at town meeting.

Gail advised there are a couple of folks who are arriving at the transfer station before it is officially opened. After brief discussion, Board asked Eric to ensure the gate was locked at 3:00 when the road crew left, prior to the arrival of a transfer station attendant for the 4:00 opening.

Sherry raised concern with being able to walk safely on the East Road. Howard Regimbald is still working and storing items in the town's right of way and there is no room to get off the traveled portion of the road if a vehicle is approaching. County Sheriff's office will be contacted as they were asked to deal with that situation.

Tinmouth Planning Commission ~ 02/27/17

Present were members Michael Fallar, Bob Lloyd, Vito Macaluso, Grant Reynolds, Amanda Chisamore, and Denise (Tess) McGinley, as well as Gail Fallar, Sec.

Members discussed town meeting – Michael will explain the update/revision process for the town plan and will encourage voters to complete and return the Community Survey. More copies will be available.

Members decided to have RRPC incorporate the latest town plan amendments in the new version.

Grant raised concern with abandoned historic houses, there are currently four – Burden, Ballou, Valentine and Fish, with three being lost already (Uber burned, Capron fell down, and Hod Hepburn's house was dismantled and will be rebuilt on Long Island). He inquired what the Planning Commission and/or the Town could do to address this. Members discussed whether if allowing a smaller lot size with conditions for preservation would work, would there be anyone interested in purchasing them with say one acre? Current minimum lot size is 5 acres, and as most of these are on farms, that is lost agricultural land. These houses need a tremendous amount of work to make them livable again.

Gail advised that there may be another house built in the October Hill affordable housing development. Members questioned whether the original permit had expired – Gail will research.

Members discussed changing from the 4th Monday, back to the 3rd Thursday – some folks have conflicts with either. In the end, it was decided to change to the 3rd Thursday.

Tinmouth Planning Commission ~ 03/16/17

Present were members Michael Fallar, Bob Lloyd, Amanda Chisamore, Vito Macaluso, Denise (Tess) McGinley, and Kim Harbaugh, as well as Sherry Johnson and Gail Fallar, Sec.

PC re-organized for 2017. Michael was re-elected Chair, Bob was re-elected Vice Chair, Gail was re-appointed Secretary.

Members reviewed results of the Community Survey – they will continue review to include some of the data in the town plan – for example the 93% that favor supporting agriculture. 61 surveys were returned. Some issues were evenly split, other had a clear message.

They also began review of revisions made by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission – more needs to be done with the energy section.

Members discussed recommendation to the Select Board regarding appointment of a zoning administrator. The PC voted to recommend that the Select Board re-appoint Gail Fallar as Zoning Administrator. All voted in favor, except Michael who re-cused himself due to a conflict of interest.

Next meeting was scheduled for April 20, 2017, RRPC staff will be invited to continue work on the town plan.

Conservation Commission ~ 3/20/17

With thanks to Chuck Bronk, Secretary

Present were members Doug Fontein, Anne Czar, Nelson Jaquay, Barbara Held, Jo Reynolds, and Chuck Bronk, as well as Gail Fallar.

Commission re-organized, Doug Fontein-Chair, Jo Reynolds-Vice Chair, Chuck Bronk-Secretary. Regular meetings - the third Monday of alternate months but start time was moved to 7:30 P.M.

Robert's Rules for small boards were adopted.

Agenda additions: Wallingford trails, Re-Scheduling of Vermont Trails meeting, Help from Castleton University students

Old Business:

The Board is still short one member. Possible candidates were discussed and Doug will contact two.

Allen Betts presentation on climate change was deemed a success with some 60 attendees. Thanks went to Jo for refreshments provided and to Doug for organizing the event and notifying surrounding towns.

After discussion it was agreed that amphibian crossing signs be constructed as quickly as possible given the prevalence of un-expected warming events. Seven signs of two different sizes, larger for paved roads and smaller for dirt roads will be fabricated, painted and installed pending information from former member Carmen Fallar

on specific crossing locations. Notice of the signage and its purpose will be placed on Front Porch Forum once the signs are installed.

Temporary end of Ridge Trail signage will be fabricated and installed.

New Business:

Trail usage on the Purchase Loop was discussed. It was concluded that certain usage, which is currently not proscribed by the current descriptive document, such as mountain bikes and horses, should be discouraged. The committee reviewed the non-winter conditions of the trail beyond the gate at the end of the Town road. It noted that seasonal wetness and erosion are extensive problems, which in combination with non-compliant usage could make future use of the trail difficult. Doug agreed to edit the current document for Commission review.

Nelson described the trails on the Drachman property from a hike he took with Bob Drachman some six years ago. He wondered if there were ways to both upgrade the trails and make them available for public use. He will initiate a conversation with Ruth Drachman and report back to the committee. Nelson also mentioned casual contact with a faculty member from Castleton University who said that she thought that there were classes that were looking for outdoor community service projects like trail maintenance. Nelson will follow up.

After a brief discussion it was agreed that it would be useful for some members of this Commission to review the trail systems in Wallingford, perhaps with representatives of their Conservation Commission.

Next meeting Monday, May 22, 2017 at 7:30 P.M

Tinmouth Community Fund Annual Meeting ~ 3/4/17

With thanks to Helen Mango, Secretary

Present were Cathy Reynolds (Chair), Jan Krantz (Vice Chair), Ray Pratt (Treasurer), Jo Reynolds, Patti Macaluso, Helen Mango (Secretary), and a number interested citizens of the Town of Tinmouth

Ray gave a report on the fund's finances: We began year with \$5300 in the town TCF checkbook, and ended with almost \$11,000.

Interest revenues: \$382; Donations: \$13,000 (including one \$10,000 anonymous donation); Transfer from school tax stabilization fund: \$75000.

Community Fund grants given out: \$5000; Scholarships \$9600; Camp Scholarships: ~ \$700

Transferred \$69,000 to Vermont Community Foundation for the TCF endowment.

Endowment: almost \$272,805.

Total assets: approximately \$281,000.

Jan reviewed the grants awarded in 2016 – There were nine grants, for a total of \$4,500.

Helen presented the awards for 2017 (\$500 each unless otherwise noted):

- Tinmouth Gardeners
- Climbing Wall Boosters
- Tinmouth Contra Dance
- Tinmouth Elementary School Garden Program (PreK/K garden)
- Tinmouth Historical and Genealogical Society
- Tinmouth Blooms
- Tinmouth Milfoil Project
- Tinmouth Handbell Ensemble
- Tinmouth Community Oven Project
- Tinmouth Old Creamery Committee
- Tales of Tinmouth
- Tinmouth Elementary School (upkeep/improvements to school garden)
- Town of Tinmouth (“Take Tinmouth to the Lake”)
- Tinmouth Conservation Commission (\$400)
- Old Firehouse Concerts (\$450)

Doug noted that some of the Contra Dance grant funds are used to support free admission to people who might not be able to afford the entry fee. Gail noted that the Old Firehouse Concert grant is to subsidize free tickets to concerts for community members who might not be able to afford the entry fee.

Cathy reported from the Scholarship Committee: In 2015, nine scholarships were awarded, totaling \$9,600. Thanks to infusion of cash from school tax stabilization fund the balance has increased. Cathy thanked the community for the donations made to the scholarship fund. She described what the scholarship committee members do. Last year’s committee was composed of Bob Lloyd, Ruth Drachman, Rene Wilbur, Annie Robbins, Tess McGinley, Nelson Jaquay and Caleb Scott.

Cathy called for volunteers for the 2017 committee: Tess McGinley, Rene Wilbur, Nelson Jaquay and Jan Krantz volunteered. Cathy will contact Ruth, Caleb and Annie and see if they are still interested in serving on the committee.

Melody reported from the camp scholarship committee: Scholarships are for day camps, on a sliding scale (families contribute something, depending on need). In 2016, three families were awarded scholarships, totaling \$706.25.

Melody encouraged more people to apply for camp scholarships. Ramsey added that he highly recommends the Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s Conservation Camp.

Elections to TCF Board:

Ray Pratt, Asha Carroll, and Patti Macaluso were elected to three year terms. Arne Majorell was elected for the one-year term (vacancy due to resignation of Annie Robbins). Jan was elected Chair, Ray -Vice Chair, Cathy - Treasurer, Helen Secretary.

Cathy reflected on 1988-89; Town Meeting met in the actual firehouse (full of diesel fumes), and then a donation came in and eventually turned into an amazing community center. The leftover money (\$85,000) was turned into yearly grants and scholarships, and over \$200,000 at the Vermont community fund.

Annual Town Meeting ~ 03/04/17 and 03/07/17

Around 70 voters gathered at the Community Center on Saturday, March 4th. Announcements included several folks being presented Community Service Awards from the Vermont Secretary of State’s office, with thanks to Rep. Robin Chesnut-Tangerman and Rep. David Potter for doing the honors. The dedication of the Town Report to Glenn W. Merrill was applauded, Marshall Squier wrote and read a poem for Glenn (found on another page of *Tales*), and the state representatives gave brief reports concerning action taking place in Montpelier. Karen Kay was applauded for her 30 years of teaching at Tinmouth Elementary School. She is retiring.

Town and Highway budgets passed by unanimous voice votes, as did designating \$225,000 of the Town’s Capital Building/Repair Fund to highway buildings – the need for a new town garage was briefly discussed – a proposed design was posted on the wall for folks to contemplate. (With thanks to Scott Lepley for providing these at no charge to the town.)

110 voters cast ballots for Tuesday’s election of officers which were all uncontested. Cathy Reynolds was elected a new Select Board member as Laurie Phillips stepped down after nine years. Laurie was given a round of applause on Saturday for her service.

The 110 unified union school district ballots were delivered to Mill River and commingled with those of the other towns, all articles and the budget passed easily.

Select Board ~ 03/23/17

Special Meetings (posted at 6:00 and 7:00)

Present were members Matt Patry, Frank Sears, and Cathy Reynolds, as well as Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Ronnie Crossman, and Gail Fallar- Board Assistant.

Frank called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Cathy moved to enter executive session for the purpose of personnel negotiations, Matt 2nd. All voted in favor. Present were Board members and employees Eric, Ronnie and Gail. Board exited executive session at 6:55. No action taken.

Frank then called the 7:00 meeting to order.

In addition to those mentioned above, also present were David and Carleen Eaton, Ann Czar, Stan Wilbur, Doug Fontein, and Kim Harbaugh.

Frank advised that the Select Board was looking for input regarding building a new town garage. The old one would be kept for cold storage. There needs to be discussion concerning the entire parcel – create a master plan that includes the new garage, a salted sand shed, possible relocation of the transfer station and recycling facilities so that that operation could be gated and locked when not open, inclusion of water and septic for the new garage, etc.

David and Carleen expressed concern as neighbors to the east – what and where will buildings be located and asked that consideration of location be taken into account given their house is nearby. Carleen noted that former Road Commissioner Hollis Squier had been very mindful of what was visible and that was greatly appreciated.

Stan advised that location of the leach field needed to be dealt with first and that will drive some of the other decisions.

Ann inquired about the rest of the land – the lot is nearly 11 acres with around 3 acres being used at the present. Need to think big picture, look forward for the next 50 years, there are many purposes, needs to be done right as it's an investment in the future.

Matt advised that he has a nephew who is a civil engineer that is willing take an unofficial look and help with possibilities.

Doug expressed concern with the initial design of a metal building – wants something that is energy efficient.

Eric advised that a metal building is most cost effective and meets the needs of the road crew.

Cathy noted she had asked Stan to attend to give his perspective as a civil engineer and to provide help with an RFP (request for proposal).

Stan advised that some preliminary site work had been done several years ago, that got stalled with discussion about a possible recreation and where it might be located and its access, where to move the sand pile, and access

roads for the transfer station, highway and athletic fields. He noted that currently the sand pile, salt shed, grizzly (for screening sand before it is loaded into the trucks), and loading dock were in close vicinity and therefore very functional. He also noted that AOT – Agency of Transportation – uses a two envelope system regarding RFP's. The first considers qualifications of those proposing the work and ranks them, and then the price and its negotiation is considered.

Also discussed was the condition of the current garage, repairs should be considered in the scope of the work.

In other business, Cathy explained the Tinmouth Community Fund Grant that she had written for the Town to rent the Pavilion for a week this summer to provide access to Tinmouth residents for swimming and fishing. The intent is to include a town picnic as well. After discussion, Matt moved and Frank seconded to accept the TCF grant, "To take Tinmouth to the Lake". They both voted in favor, Cathy abstained.

Board appointed Robbie Leeds to the Conservation Commission to fill Carmen Fallar's vacancy, term ends in 2019.

Matt expressed concern with the trash problem that still exists on Mountain View Road – what legal steps can be taken? Concern has been raised about the potential for rats and stench when warmer weather arrives. After discussion and review of the Town's Trash Ordinance, the Board decided to issue a formal notice, which Frank will hand deliver.





Recipe Corner – Maple Syrup Bread

2 cups all purpose flour
 2 tsp. baking powder
 2 tsp. baking soda
 1 tsp. salt
 2 cups whole wheat flour
 2 eggs (room temperature)
 1 1/2 c. buttermilk (room temperature)
 1/2 c. sour cream (room temperature)
 1 1/3 c. maple syrup

Grease two medium loaf pans, line with waxed paper, and grease the paper. Preheat oven to 325°F.

In a large bowl, blend the all-purpose flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and whole wheat flour. In a small bowl, beat the eggs thoroughly and blend in the buttermilk, sour cream and maple syrup. Pour this mixture into dry ingredients and stir well. Pour the batter, which will be thin, into the prepared loaf pans. Bake for 1 hour, or until done. Allow to cool on rack.

Originally submitted by Susan Mackey for the first "Taste of Tinmouth"

If you have a recipe you'd like to share, send along to smhb@vermontel.net or mail to Shirley Bucceri, 49 North End Road, Tinmouth, VT 05773

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Cottage for Sale

We are selling our lovingly restored cottage at the end of West Shore Drive, # 100 (some may still know it as the Gilmore place).

It has been totally renovated in the past 6 years, so it is new from the inside out.

2 bedrooms, open kitchen/ living area, large bathroom with electric baseboard heat, propane heater for the main living area, electric stove. All appliances are new within the last 5 years.

It is being sold furnished, so this means you could simply walk in and start to enjoy!

Check us out on Facebook "Made in the Shade Tinnmouth, Vt"

If interested, or know someone who is interested, please contact Barbara or Rob at 802.558.7395, 516.509.7663 or message us on the FB page.



I am pleased to announce that I will once again be renting the White Birch Cottage on Tinmouth Pond for the summer and fall seasons. It is located on the "quiet side" of the lake and suitable for two people (two bedrooms). The cottage has been painted inside and out, the floors refinished and there are new couches in the living room (next to the fireplace). We started renting it in 1995 and have had many satisfied customers over the years. Our friends and neighbors in Tinmouth have found it especially convenient to have their friends and family stay nearby. For further information please see the ad at

<http://www.vermontproperty.com/detail/Vermont/machester-benningtonrentals/1412/>

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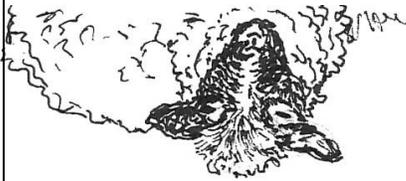
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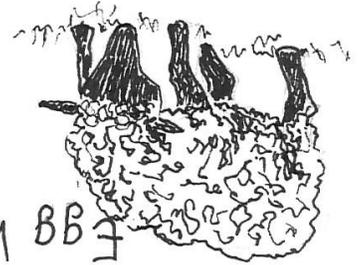
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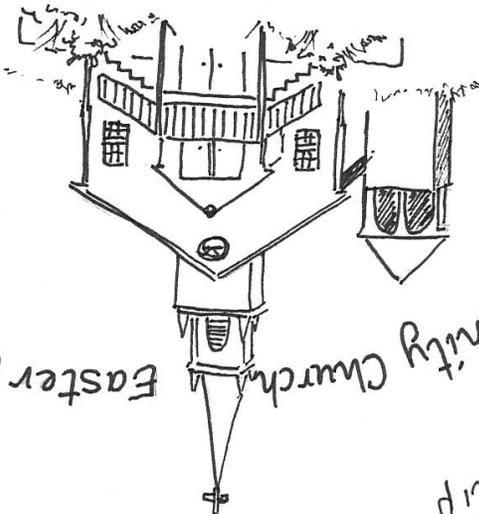
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9:00 a.m. Easter Service
Egg hunt for children follows service!



inspiration
Easter Celebration April 16th
Tinmouth Community Church
fellowship

