



## **FARMERS JOURNAL** By Deb Noonan

### **2014 - Extraordinary Accomplishments**

2014 was a labor intensive year for the CFH community as they successfully fulfilled 2014 goals. Fundraising, installation of the new windows, upgrading the parking lot and lots of community involvement are just a few of the objectives that has been achieved.

Read further for more information about future plans, events and goals at the Canaan Farmers Hall as we enter our fifth year of community service.

### **Land Raffle plus Town of Canaan support lift**

The town of Canaan supported the CFH lift project by setting aside \$15,000 of town funds to go toward purchasing and installing a lift so that the second floor would be accessible to folks who cannot climb stairs. CFH is sincerely grateful for Canaan's assistance in this venture.

The \$15,000 was extremely helpful and put CFH on track to fundraising another \$17,000 dollars toward the project. This was accomplished by the generous donation of a 1.27 acre lot on Route 23 by Bill and Louise Townsend. Directors and members decided to raffle the land and raise the money. Members sold tickets at fairs, local establishments, work places along with soliciting family, friends and neighbors. Each ticket cost \$100.00 and in the end 172 tickets of the 200 available tickets were sold. Orrin Fitzgerald of Canaan was the lucky winner.

### **Long Term Improvement Plans**

The board of directors are continuing to make plans for renovations. In the attempt to be eligible for grants that may be available for these improvements research is being done by members to attain "historical preservation" status. All are welcome to give input! Plans being considered are:

- ⇒ Lift installation
- ⇒ Sprinkler system
- ⇒ Heating upgrade
- ⇒ Commercial kitchen upgrade
- ⇒ Access/exiting upgrade
- ⇒ Lift installation
- ⇒ Roofing repairs
- ⇒ Electrical and Lighting upgrade

### **Newsletter Spotlight**

- **2014 accomplishments.**
- **Land Raffle a Success!!!**
- **Long term improvement plans.**
- **Community use of CFH continues to grow!**
- **Lift project updaters.**
- **Scheduling use of CFH.**
- **Upcoming events.**



**Bill & Louise Townsend being interviewed by local media about the CFH land raffle.**



The fall of 2014 attendance at Midge Pomelow's Children's Theater Group was a full house. The play was followed by a dinner put on by the Canaan Farmers Hall. It was a very successful day for all of us!

### New Events from New Participants

#### Midge's Theatre Art Studio

"Let your talent grow is the motto the children at Midge's Theatre Art Studio go by. Ran by Midge Pomelow, she provides a warm and upbeat environment for children in grades K-8 to teach them stage productions with costumes, props, singing and well, you name it! Children participating are at all levels of experience and each presentation incorporates a blend of ages. So from beginners to developed members and of various ages within the theater group, all take part in creating each production.

Last year was the groups first time performing at CFH and it was a packed house. We expect that the "Aladdin" presentation on May 24th at 2 pm to be equally well attended! Please make plans to attend!

For more information about Midge's Theatre Art Studio call Midge at 643-2118.

### Saving Beauty Art Show

Somerset Woods Trustees (SWT) and Seabasticook Regional Land (SRLT) are thrilled to present an art show of Maine artists entitled "Saving Beauty" at the Canaan Farmers Hall opening on May 29th at 4:30 pm with wine and cheese reception. The show will be open for viewing during the hall's annual fundraising banquet. And will be open two weekends, ending at 5 PM on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

All artists will be asked the question: **How do the rivers, lakes, fields, mountains and forests of inland Maine inspire your art?**

We believe that artists understand, appreciate and communicate, through their respective mediums, the love and respect of nature. We have a thriving arts community that remain here because they value the beauty of the wilderness. This is an opportunity for conversation. We chose that location as a mid-point between SWT and SRLT offices. We plan to schedule several events and will arrange for volunteers to be present for the Friday, Saturdays and Sundays of the show. If you would be interested in contributing work, donating volunteer time or just want more information, please contact Nina Pleasants at [somersetwoodstrustees@gmail.com](mailto:somersetwoodstrustees@gmail.com) or Jennifer Irving at [jennifer@seabasticookrlt.org](mailto:jennifer@seabasticookrlt.org)

### Upcoming Events

- **May 23rd 9am-4pm**  
Midges Theatre Art Studio  
Dress Rehearsal
- **May 24th 2 pm**  
Midge's Theatre Art Studio  
Presents: **"Aladdin"**  
**\$5/person or \$20/family**
- **May 24th 8 pm**  
Contra Dance
- **May 29th 4:30 pm**  
**"Saving Beauty Art Show"**  
Somerset Woods Trustees &  
Seabasticook Regional Land  
Trust  
" Wine & Cheese Reception"
- **May 30th 12:00 - 5:00 pm**  
**"Saving Beauty Art Show"**
- **May 30th 5:30 pm**  
CFH Spring Fundraiser Dinner
- **May 30th 12:00 - 5 pm**  
**"Saving Beauty Art Show"**
- **June 6th & 7th 12:00 - 5 pm**  
**"Saving Beauty Art Show"**  
Somerset Woods Trustees &  
Seabasticook Regional Land  
Trust "
- **June 27th 8 pm**  
Contra Dance
- **July 25th 8 pm**  
Contra Dance
- **August 22 Private Wedding**
- **September 26th 8pm**  
Contra Dance
- **October 17th & 18th 5:30 pm**  
CFH Mystery Dinner Theater  
Common Threads Weekend
- **October 24th 8pm**  
Contra Dance
- **November 14th 9 am- 4pm**  
**Midge's Theatre Art Studio**  
Group Rehearsal
- **November 15th 2 pm**  
Midge's Theatre Art Studio  
Presents:  
**"The Christmas Carol "**  
**\$5/person or \$20/family**

### Lift Update

Last year between the town of Canaan donating \$15,000 to the hall and the income generated from the land raffle, a total of 32,000+ dollars have been raised to install a lift for better access to the second floor of the hall. We were quite excited and hoped to have the lift installed before we closed the hall for the winter months.

Unfortunately we were unaware that the Maine State Fire Marshall would insist that a sprinkler system and another exit would have to be installed before a lift could be installed. We have many reservations about a sprinkler system. A sprinkler system would obviously change the historical importance of this beautiful old building and would be very costly to install.

So the board of directors have decided to slow things down a bit and research further what other options could be possible. We have not given up on the lift. We are considering alternatives to the lift if we cannot find an affordable solution to having a sprinkler system installed. In keeping with the intentions of the townspeople, we are also looking into a chair lift that would run up the two flights of stairs to the second floor. Additionally, we are applying for historical preservation status with intentions of acquiring grants that can be utilized to achieve our goals and perhaps pardon us from typical alterations that would compromise the historical integrity of the building. We have also reached out to other organizations that have resolved these same problems.

### Scheduling CHF

Our summer schedule is quickly filling up. We rent the hall very reasonably to private and public events. For more information please contact Kathy Perelka at 474-6168 or email her at [kperelka@myfairpoint.net](mailto:kperelka@myfairpoint.net); Scott Price at 938-3158 or [scottgarlic@gmail.com](mailto:scottgarlic@gmail.com)



**Next Board Meeting: February 2nd @ 6:00 pm**  
**Quilting Committee Meeting February 2nd @ 6:30 pm**

Our next board meeting is February 2nd at 6:00 at the Fire Station Hall in Canaan.

Following the board meeting there will be a quilting committee at 6:30 to discuss the creation of a CHF quilt to auction off as a fundraiser. Anyone willing to take part are welcomed to attend ! There just might be a delicious treat too!