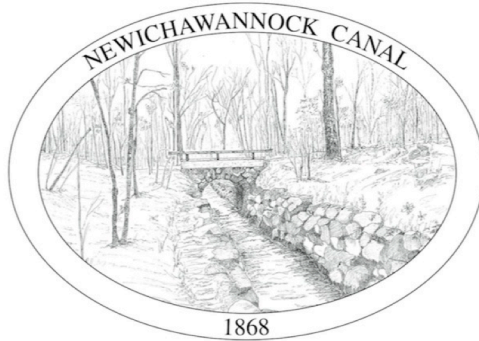




WAKEFIELD HERITAGE COMMISSION NEWS



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Original pen and ink drawing by Judy Brenner

As I look back over the past year, I see many projects completed by the Wakefield Heritage Commission. Among those, The Newichawannock Bridge and Canal was placed on the National Register as a National Historic District. We have been working for several years to preserve this unusual local “treasure” by having it recognized on the National Register of Historic Sites but never dreamed it would become a “District.” We now have two National Historic Districts in Wakefield, quite an honor! Now we hope to have the State work with us to create a “park,” with a path and interpretive signage.

We completed the construction of a gallery/museum at the Lovell Union Grange in Wakefield Corner. The creation of a “museum” that would house her collection of stagecoach memorabilia has long been a dream of Elizabeth MacRury and she donated the funds for this project. Her collection of artifacts, paintings and sculptures dedicated to the Concord Coach is the foundation of our exhibit here. We are deeply thankful for Beth’s generous gift. We are already expanding the gallery to include other historical finds that depict life at Wakefield Corner in the 18th and early 19th century. Called “The Heritage Centre at Wakefield Corner,” this building also now has an office for the WHC and a conference room. The gallery will be open beginning next summer.

We have hosted several Heritage Park tours for outside groups as well as tours of other historical sights in Wakefield. We try to accommodate all requests and this has become a great way to promote our heritage.

Work is ongoing at Heritage Park in Union and the Heritage Centre of the Branch River Valley. The exterior of the Freight House has been finished and painted. Bill Gaver and his “group” of modelers have accomplished much on the 1909 HO scale replica of the railroad and the five stations in Wakefield. This project not only entertains young and old alike, but will serve as a teaching tool far beyond its historical significance.

The year ends with two more events. On Nov. 29, we will host the Tour de Chooch from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Heritage Park. The Christmas Open House begins at 2 p.m. with entertainment, refreshments, and the dedication of special donations. Then on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. we will hold the second annual Christmas at Wakefield Corner in collaboration with the First Congregational Church of Wakefield. We encourage everyone to join us at both events.

We are already formulating several programs for 2015. At Heritage Park we will be co-hosting a Boy Scout railroading merit badge, a railroad model building “camp” for all ages and a docent program. Sign-ups have already begun for the camp and we may have to open a second series. None of our work could be completed without the help of our Commission members and our wonderful volunteers. I appreciate everyone’s efforts and look forward to more accomplishments in 2015.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year,
Pam Wiggin

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◆ **SAVE THE DATE – DECEMBER 13** ◆



CHRISTMAS AT WAKEFIELD CORNER HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



From left to right: Wakefield Historic District in Autumn; First Congregational Church of Wakefield; Wakefield Public Library.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR DINNER AT WAKEFIELD INN
CALL PAM FRAZIER FOR INFORMATION/TICKETS: 522-0031**

The Wakefield Heritage Commission and the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, United Church of Christ, are co-hosting the second annual Christmas at Wakefield Corner Historic Walking Tour and holiday celebration on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 2 to 7 p.m.

Located on a picturesque stretch of Wakefield Road off Route 16 as it wends towards Sanbornville, the Historic District includes homes that were built in the late 1700s, the First Congregational Church, the Wakefield Inn, the Wakefield Public Library and the Little Red Schoolhouse – home of the Wakefield/Brookfield Historical Society.

Volunteer docents will be on hand to guide visitors.

The multi-stop historic tour will also include live music, caroling, storytelling, a Yule log fire with hot chocolate in the Sawyer-Wiggin field, and a Santa Claus sighting at 3 p.m. Live performances will include the Wakefield Memorial Bell Choir.

The Wakefield Inn is offering a special ticket package -- \$42 includes admission to the walking tour and a three-course dinner with a choice of three seating's, 2:30, 4, and 5:30 p.m., including tax and gratuity. Reservations are required for the dinner and tour. Tickets to the walking tour are priced at \$20 per person, and can be purchased either in advance or the day of the tour at the church. For more information and to reserve tickets, please call or e-mail Pam Frazier at 522-0031, or pam@mooseview.com, with "Wakefield Tour" in the subject line.

The event is a fundraiser for both the Heritage Commission and the First Congregational Church of Wakefield.

Participants are encouraged to park at the north end of Wakefield Road, near the Wakefield Marketplace pole barn lot. A shuttle bus will be available to bring visitors from the Marketplace to Wakefield Corner.

◆ **SAVE THE DATE – NOVEMBER 29** ◆

HERITAGE PARK CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE & TOUR DE CHOOCH



Mark your calendars for full day of fun on Nov. 29 when the Wakefield Heritage Commission hosts the **Christmas Open House** at Heritage Park in Union, and opens its doors for the 20th annual **Tour de Chooch** featuring the 1909 Boston and Maine Railroad model in the restored Freight House.

The Heritage Park Christmas Open House and Tour de Chooch will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Heritage Park campus located on 282 Main St. Admission to the tour and open house is free and the public will gain access to the 1902 Russell Snowplow, the restored Union Station museum and its displays of railroad and ice-harvesting artifacts, the HO scale model of the 1909 Boston and Maine Railroad as it served the five villages of Wakefield, and more. Refreshments will be served. Historic railroad presentations are scheduled for 2 p.m., with Santa Claus arriving at 3 p.m.

The Tour de Chooch, which features model railroad layouts in Eastern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire from Friday through Sunday on the Thanksgiving weekend, is a free, self-guided tour. The Freight House, also known as the Heritage Centre of Branch River Valley, houses the HO scale model of the Boston and Maine Railroad as it served Sanbornville, Wakefield Corner, East Wakefield, North Wakefield and Union. was extended to Sanbornville, then known as Wolfeboro Junction.



A talented team of HO scale railroad modelers has worked for nearly two years to recreate the Boston and Maine Railroad as it served the five villages of Wakefield in 1909.

Union was a bustling town with mills, hotels and factories, said presenter Phil Twombly. The station house itself was built in 1911. But aside from industry, the town's thriving business of between 1880 and 1930 was ice harvesting. Ice was harvested from nearby Lovell Lake, cut into 44-inch chunks and loaded into railroad ice cars directly from the lake. The exhibits at Heritage Park include a restored 1902 Russell Snow Plow on permanent loan from Acton, Maine residents Terry and Patty Gammon. Built in British Columbia, the plow, which would have been pushed by a railcar to remove snow from tracks, is one of five of its kind. The plow cleaned tracks between Sanbornville and Wolfeboro for many years.

During the open house, WHC Chair Pam Wiggin will acknowledge some recent donations to the museum – an antique platter and a hand-made quilt.

NEWICHAWANNOCK BRIDGE AND CANAL ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The Wakefield Heritage Commission hosted a well-attended reception and presentation on Oct. 25 to celebrate the designation of the town's Newichawannock Bridge and Canal, which straddles Wakefield and Acton, Maine, as a site on the National Register of Historic Places and as a new Historic District.

Wakefield Heritage Commission Chair Pam Wiggin welcomed special guest speakers including Peter Michaud, the director of the state Division of Historical Resources, Victoria Bunker, PhD., the archeological consultant who prepared the town's mill site study, and WHC Vice Chair Peter Brown, himself a descendent of canal builder Hiram Paul who started construction of the bridge and canal for the Great Falls Manufacturing Company before the Civil War.

In her remarks, Wiggin acknowledged the time and research that led to this honorable designation.

"This has been a long journey. Twelve years ago, the Wakefield Heritage Commission began an application to become a 'CLG' – a Certified Local Government.

"Finally in 2006, we became a Certified Local Government, which allowed us to obtain grants to allow us to survey and document our local historical assets. Also during this time, Peter Brown, on behalf of the Commission, submitted an application for the Newichawannock Bridge to be added to the state's Historic Register," she said. With additional data on the structures conducted by Richard Casella on the Commission's behalf, Richard Casella collected additional data on the historic and structural significance of canal and bridge, which was forwarded to State Historian Jim Garvin.

Ultimately, the structure was included in Garvin's report, and as such became eligible for status as a National Historic Register landmark.

In 2009, the Heritage Commission obtained a grant to study 18 mills and dams in Wakefield, including the Newichawannock Bridge and Canal, and Archeological Consultant Victoria Bunker, PhD., conducted a detailed report for the commission.



Left to right: Victoria Bunker, PhD., Peter Michaud from NH Division of Historical Resources, WHC Chair Pam Wiggin; Vice Chair Peter Brown, a descendent of canal builder Hiram Paul, and Artist Judy Brenner of Brookfield, who created the Newichawannock Bridge and Canal pen and ink drawing logo. for the Wakefield Heritage Commission. [By the way, it's pronounced, "New-witch-a-wan-ock," accent on the 'witch.']

The research led to obtaining another grant to study the canal and bridge in particular. With support from both select boards from Wakefield and Acton, Maine, and Peter Michaud, the director of the New Hampshire division of Historical Resources, and Peter Mitchell from the Historical Resources Department in Maine, the commission proceeded with the application to the National Register.

Construction of the bridge and canal was completed after the Civil War in 1865 by Hiram Paul, an accomplished engineer and owner of the Wakefield House Tavern and Stagecoach Stop. Wiggin said the project's purpose was to increase water supply to the company's textile mills 25 miles down stream in Somersworth.

In his remarks, Michaud said the Newichawannock Bridge and Canal was significant for many reasons, including the fact that it is one of only a handful of sites on the National Register that straddle two states.

Local artist Judy Brenner was recognized for her pen and ink drawing of the Newichawannock Bridge and Canal, which is now the commission's logo.

CELEBRATE RAILROADING IN NEW ENGLAND 2015 MODEL RAILROADING CLASSES AND PROGRAMS

The Wakefield Heritage Commission and the Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association, in conjunction with the Heritage Park Railroad Museum, are planning a series of model railroading classes and programs for youth and adults during July and August 2015.

Model Railroad Camp participants will be introduced to model railroading using the Heritage Park Freight House model railroad as a learning tool. Participants will construct an HO Scale diorama featuring some track, a freight car, a structure and scenery. Students will take home his/her project.



Three, five-day camp sessions are planned. Camp I, for ages 7 to 10; Camp II, for ages 11-15; and Camp III, for ages 16 to adult.

The **Docent Program** prepares adults and youth, grades 9-12, to serve as guides for visitors and tour groups coming to Heritage Park. Participants will learn about the artifacts on display in the Union Railroad Station Museum and the history of railroading in the five villages of Union, Sanbornville, Wakefield, East Wakefield and North Wakefield as depicted in the 1909 era model railroad housed in the 1875 Union Freight House. This knowledge is necessary for conducting successful tours.

The **Boy Scouts Merit Badge Program** will assist participants in fulfilling the Railroading Merit Badge. Topics will include railroad history, impact of railroading on society, careers in railroading and the hobby of model railroading.

Enrollment is limited in all programs. The registration deadline is May 15, 2015. All classes and programs will be held at Heritage Park at 282 Main St., in Union. For additional information, call 603-998-0860.

I would like to donate to the Wakefield Heritage Commission to help them reach their goals.

Please apply my gift to: The Blacksmith Shop The Freight House

The Stage Stop Gallery & Museum Any need of the Wakefield Heritage Commission

Name: _____

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Wakefield Heritage Commission

2 High Street

Sanbornville, NH 03872