

THE TAMWORTH CIVIC NEWS

Volume XX, Number 3 A Bi-Monthly Publication of the Tamworth Civic Association

March 1st, 2015



NEW HAMPSHIRE CHRONICLE COMES TO TAMWORTH

It was a routine press release, emailed with an inserted photograph, sent to the local and regional media. The Tamworth Outing Club (TOC) was postponing our annual sled dog race from the last weekend in January to the last weekend in February, as the late January snow on Chocorua Lake was too light and dry to hold up to several days of racing, presenting a safety issue for the dog teams and drivers. I thought nothing of it. . . .

. . . until my phone rang. It was WMUR's *New Hampshire Chronicle* (NHC) calling from Manchester, asking if the TOC would be interested in having the TV show feature the local sled dog scene and, specifically, our Tamworth Sled Dog Race. The show airs Monday through Friday, 7-7:30PM on ABC's Channel 9. The proposal was to video five segments on Chocorua Lake in mid-February, which would be used to introduce featured stories during a designated week later that month. All the TOC needed to do was groom a circuit on the lake, and round up a few experienced sled dog teams and drivers willing to be interviewed, display some techniques, and show their gear.

Five evenings of free advertisement on the most-watched New Hampshire network to be aired the week before our race? Of course we can make that happen! A few calls to the TOC board and the New England Sled Dog Club (NESDC) generated the necessary teams and drivers. With the commitment made, I knew we had a really great opportunity to promote the sport and our race.

When NHC staff asked for talking points, fun facts, or interesting information about sled dogs in general, Tamworth's historical connection to the sport immediately came to mind. Arthur T. Walden, while living in Wonalancet, created the iconic Chinook breed, named after his first successfully bred dog, Chinook. A mild mannered dog, large and powerful enough to pull a heavy sled, Chinook was chosen to lead the sled dog teams for Admiral Richard E. Byrd's 1929 expedition to Antarctica. In 1924, Walden founded the NESDC, a group which has continued to sponsor the Tamworth Sled Dog Races to this day.

The Tamworth Outing Club has its own points of historical interest. The TOC turns 80 years old this year, and our sled dog race, first run in 1937, has become the oldest sprint race in America. Our setting, with the iconic Mount Chocorua as a backdrop, is one of the most photographed scenes in New Hampshire. We rely on many volunteers, as well as support from the Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club for grooming, the Tamworth Police Department, the Highway Department, and permission from the Chocorua Lake Conservancy and many landowners to run the race across their land. Generous local business sponsors generate prize money for the race and help fund Tamworth's Junior Ski Program. I was pleased when they used some of these interesting facts while filming for the show.



The weather blessed the video crew with near perfect conditions. The temperatures and the overcast sky were excellent for filming. The TOC had done a great job grooming and marking the course. The video crew and anchors—a team of four—arrived in a single car, precisely fitted for all their equipment. With a small sled on wheels, the camera gear was situated on the lake so as to frame Mt. Chocorua in the background. They presented five set-ups, featuring a single dog team or dogs for each one. A large team pulled NHC hosts Erin Fehlau and Sean McDonald around the lake, with the cameraman filming from a leading snowmobile. A smaller team was featured while Erin and Sean talked about Tamworth's historical connection to the sport. A segment focused on the sled itself, how drivers steer, control their speed, and brake. Another set-up demonstrated the harnessing of a dog. I was impressed with the crew's concise execution and skill at creating a show during only three hours on the lake.

We hope many of you had the opportunity to watch *New Hampshire Chronicle* during the week of February 23rd. Past episodes of the show are available on their website: www.wmur.com/new-hampshire-chronicle.

—Sheldon Perry, TOC President

December 30th, 2014

Road Agent Richard Roberts reported that the highway crew has been doing a lot of tree cutting. They are also performing regular maintenance on equipment. The board and road agent briefly discussed a driveway permit for a lot in Sokokis Pines. ♦ The board approved and signed seven intent-to-cut applications. ♦ Tax Collector/Town Clerk Kim Trammell discussed with the board and Town Administrator Cassandra Pearce wording received from DRA and town counsel for the warrant article for Tax Collector/ Clerk salary and benefits. The board believes this should be placed on the warrant every year going forward. Trammell will attend the next meet to confirm salary figures. ♦ Supervisor of the Checklist Amy Berrier presented a statement regarding use of the town house signed by twenty-seven registered voters. She then asked for permission to hold pre-election supervisors' meetings at the town office. Selectman John Roberts would like all groups to meet at the town house as previously voted on. The board agreed the supervisors could meet at the town office. ♦ The board briefly discussed how town offices in other towns are set up. J. Roberts explained that Freedom's administrative assistant delivers all material needed for board meetings to another building and picks up materials in the morning. He feels that this shows that things can be worked out in Tamworth to better utilize available space. ♦ March voting will be held at the Tamworth Town House. ♦ Board voted to permanently change the voting time for town elections to 8AM–7PM beginning with the March 2015 election. ♦ Resident David Little presented a handout: "Tips to improve your Annual Report." ♦ Town Administrator Pearce presented a letter from the Town of Wakefield requesting support to stand with Wakefield at a County Commissioners meeting to discuss untimely filing by the county to DRA. The board agreed to attend the meeting. ♦ The board briefly discussed plowing at Runnells Hall. ♦ Board discussed a personnel matter with the town administrator.

January 15th, 2015

The board met in a 3PM non-public session. ♦ At the regular meeting, Trammell reported to the board she would like to contract her Clerk Works software support using Inter Ware instead of BMSI beginning in 2015. The board recommended she have Attorney Sager read the contract. They briefly discussed the warrant article for the Trammell's salary being presented on the 2015 warrant. The board again confirmed their intention to have this as an annual warrant article. ♦ Barnstormer's board member Lou Demaio discussed the possibility of serving beer and wine, one half hour before the show and during intermission. The board is in support and asked Demaio to put together a plan and present it at a later date. ♦ Resident Bob Streeter suggested that the town should put into place a website policy and shared an example from another town. He also suggested improvements to the site. Streeter asked for a copy of the website redesign proposal submitted in November. ♦ Transfer station personnel are asking if they should charge the Tamworth Community Nurses a fee for disposing of computers/monitors. The board asked Pearce to confirm that these items are from the nurses and not their clients' personal items. ♦ Board reconvened in Ossipee and met with board members from Ossipee,

Eaton, Effingham, and Freedom to discuss an ambulance contract.

January 29th

R. Roberts reported the crew has been plowing, sanding, and salting. He is awaiting bids on a new grader. He thanked the police department for investigating the roadside dumping. There was a brief discussion concerning snow removal in Chocorua Village; R. Roberts will obtain pricing for this work. ♦ Resident Chris Moneypenny presented plans for improvements to the Tamworth Ball Fields and parking area. Logger Lance Williams will remove some trees at the site. The board approved this work, which will be privately funded. ♦ Streeter came before the board to discuss changes to the town website. He and other community members would like to have the tax assessment cards and tax maps available on the town website. Pearce will obtain the cost and also the definition of proprietary from our current website provider. ♦ Trammell briefly discussed the warrant article for her position's salary being presented on the 2015 warrant. The board again confirmed their intention to have this as an annual warrant article. ♦ Pearce presented the yearly cost for the six-year ambulance contract with Eaton, Freedom, Madison, and Ossipee. ♦ Pine Tree Power's PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes, sometimes abbreviated PILT) will expire this year. Pearce will obtain prices from utility appraisers to assist in negotiations for a new PILOT. ♦ Board has agreed to publish the town report with the exact information as past issues. ♦ Pearce requested increasing the transfer station budget to include a cell phone. ♦ The rescue department budget has been decreased by \$2,000. ♦ Board discussed and decided not to include a proposed warrant article from the trustees of the trust fund regarding the spending of any interest accrued from reserve funds. ♦ After reviewing the town policy and opinion from town counsel, an employee receiving Worker's Compensation benefits will accrue sick, vacation, etc. If, in fact, the employee never returns to work, the town must compensate the employee for unused time. ♦ The board discussed and agreed to the changes to the flood plain ordinance. J. Roberts will present the changes to the planning board.

February 4th

In a 7AM meeting, R. Roberts reported the cost to maintain the sidewalks in Chocorua Village would be \$900–\$1,500 per storm. They discussed possible options. The board agreed not to maintain the sidewalks in Chocorua Village at this time. ♦ The board has agreed to increase the administration budget by \$11,808 and to add \$25,000 to the assessing budget. ♦ The board discussed petition warrant articles and finalized wording and presenting order. The warrant article to renovate the town office and town house was decreased from \$100,000 to \$30,000. ♦ After a lengthy discussion the board agreed to continue our working relationship with the current website provider. The 2015 budget includes \$2,500 for an update to the town website. The upgrades do not include providing web access to tax cards or maps. ♦ Beginning immediately the Tamworth Board of Selectmen will require any request to be on the agenda be made no later than noon the Tuesday prior to the meeting; any corresponding paperwork must be provided by that time as well.

NEW LIFE FOR TAMWORTH'S CELLAR HOLES

Six people met at the Cook Memorial Library in January to start a new local history project: to identify abandoned cellar holes in Tamworth. Last year the Tamworth Historical Society sponsored an evening talk about a similar project in Lyme, NH, and that talk stirred our local group into action. Two library staff members and a volunteer had already started a list of cellar holes. The new group, dubbed the Tamworth Cellar Hole Gang, plans to add to the list and then collect GPS points at the cellar hole locations.

Once the snow melts, we'll visit cellar holes and record information about their condition. We'll look for evidence of structures like foundation stones or chimneys, stone walls, or water wells. Clues about historic land use may be apparent from nearby fields or woodlots; dooryard plantings of day lilies or lilacs might be discovered. This information will be recorded, along with a sketch map of the area, and kept on record at the library. Eventually we'll produce a large map of known cellar-hole sites in Tamworth.

Before the fieldwork visit, we will research the history of the location using old maps and genealogy records in the library, as well as property records. We will only visit properties with the landowners' knowledge and written permission. During the site visit, there is no digging or moving stones—the goal is to observe and record information. We are interested in the stories the cellar holes tell about the people who lived here before us, about their homes and their livelihoods. Our community is always changing, and our aim is not to preserve cellar holes but to recognize and appreciate how they fit into our local landscape.

The Tamworth Cellar Hole Gang invites interested people to join us in April for two field visits to cellar holes. Chris Conrod and Paul King will show us how to measure a site, take a GPS reading, and how to draw an accurate sketch map. Both visits will be on Tuesdays, April 14th and 21st. We'll meet at the Cook Library at 2PM and carpool to the sites.

Contact Chris Clyne at the library, 323-8510 or chris@tamworthlibrary.org, with any questions or information about cellar holes that need more investigation.

—Chris Clyne

TAMWORTH RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Call Director Parker Roberts for program info, 323-7582

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Tai Chi, Town House, Monday, 6-7:30PM; Tuesday, 9:30-11AM. Call Parker to find out which class is appropriate for you, as one is introductory and one is for more experienced students.

Step Aerobics, Town House, Wednesdays & Fridays, 8-9AM.

Living Strong, Town House, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8-9AM.

WINTER PROGRAMS AT THE BRETT SCHOOL:

Jr. High/High School basketball. Mondays, 7-8:30.

Adult basketball. Tuesdays, 7-9.

The annual trip to the **Boston Flower Show** will be Thursday, March 19th. Call 323-7582 to reserve your tickets.

COOK LIBRARY WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

Mary Cronin begins her work this March as the new director at Cook Memorial Library in Tamworth Village. She will replace long-time director Jay Rancourt who is retiring.

Director of the Madison Library for the past ten years, Mary has worked in libraries on and off since 7th grade. She has a B.A. in Studio Art (concentration in printmaking) from Mount Holyoke College and a Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Rhode Island. Mary is currently chairperson for the New Hampshire Library Association's Advocacy Committee. She lives in Madison with her husband, David. They have two 20-something daughters; one living in western Massachusetts and the other in Portland, Maine.

When asked for her thoughts about taking over the helm at CML, Mary replied: "I am looking forward to getting started as your new library director. I invite everyone to stop in at the library so I may introduce myself. Tell me what you value most about your public library and about Tamworth. I know that Library Director Jay Rancourt and the staff, trustees, volunteers, and Friends of the Cook Memorial Library have built a strong library with wonderful community support. I plan to continue nurturing and developing the library as a transformational resource for individuals, families, and civic organizations in Tamworth."

Mary is willing to visit local groups and organizations to introduce herself in person and learn more about the Tamworth community. She can be contacted by phone at CML (323-8510), or by email at mary@tamworthlibrary.org.



TRAGIC ROMANCE AT THE BRETT SCHOOL

Thanks to a generous donation from the Tamworth Foundation, Advice To The Players (ATTP) will be presenting a performance of William Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' on April 9th at 1:30PM at the K. A. Brett School. This performance is free for all Tamworth students, regardless of whether or not they attend Brett.

The ATTP mission is to engage students and community in exploration of our shared humanity through the rich language and passionate action of Shakespeare's plays.

Other performances of 'Romeo and Juliet' will be March 27th–April 4th in North Conway and April 10th–12th in Center Sandwich. For information call Becca at 986-6253, or visit www.advicetotheplayers.org.

—Rebecca Boyden, ATTP Executive Director

Back in November of 2004, we wrote about the reopening of the old Mobil station in Chocorua as G III Fancy Foods and Gulf Gas. The original owner left some time ago, and his partners, Raj and Kushal Kahlon and their family have carried on. For years they have provided affordable gas, grocery essentials, and Kushal's homemade Indian food (including samosas—yum!), alongside regular convenience-store items. Last fall the Kahlons remodeled the interior of the store, making room for a tea and coffee bar and some seating.

The all-organic tea and coffee comes from a company called ATeaz (www.aateaz.com), and was the idea of medical student son Gary. Some Tamworthians will remember Gary; a few years ago he took a year off from college to work in the store with his mother. He's been living in New York City and has seen the growing popularity of organic teas and coffee. Gary knows the owners of ATeaz and he has been studying the health benefits of tea; it was a logical product to try in the store.

G III started selling the drinks early last fall, beginning with ten flavors of tea. Now they have expanded to thirty tea flavors and added a dozen kinds of organic coffee from ATeaz. You can get a fresh cup of tea, made on the spot with a little tea bag filled from the big jars on the counter, right before your eyes. And those big jars of tea? Gary says they refill them every week. Travelers headed home to Boston, New York, Connecticut, and beyond stop for gas on their way south and leave with a tea (and now coffee) supply to last until their next trip north.

The thirty tea flavors include dessert teas (caffeine free), flavored and plain black teas, and flavored and plain green teas. Selections that caught our eye included Moroccan mountain mint, vanilla berry truffle, lavender black tea, jasmine green tea, and a de-tox tea with dandelion root that they "can't keep in stock, it sells so fast." The TCN editorial staff tried some of the *New York, New York*, blend coffee and found it delicious.

By the time you read this, the store will have the different coffees, made drip style, available by the cup. And there is always a thermos of brewed "grab & go" coffee and a basket of pastries; all conveniently located by the cream and sugar.

Not in a hurry? The state just approved them for up to twenty-five seats and, with an on-site cook, more food choices—including gluten-free options—will be offered. There will be two flavors of tea to sample every day, and teapots and other tea accessories are on sale.

And, as if all that weren't enough, new gas pumps and a canopy are in the plans; soon you'll be able to pump your gas under cover in bad weather. G III is open every day 6AM–9PM, so stop by and see what's new in Chocorua.

—Annie Riecken



Monday, March 2nd

"Candidates' Night" public forum, 7PM in the K.A. Brett School cafeteria.

Wednesday, March 4th

School district meeting, 7PM, K.A. Brett School gymnasium.

Monday, March 9th

Town clerk is available to accept absentee ballots delivered in person, 3–5PM.

Tuesday, March 10th

Town election day. Polls are open at the Tamworth Town House from 8AM–7PM. You may register to vote at the polls. All voters must bring a photo ID. Those registering to vote must also show proof of Tamworth residency.

Wednesday, March 11th

Town meeting, 7PM, K.A. Brett School. No new voter registration will be done at town meeting.

Note: All dates listed above are based on information available as of the Civic News' 3/1/15 publication date.

The following candidates will appear on the ballot:

Town Election:	
Selectmen (1 seat; 3-year term)	Jim Hidden
Town Clerk/Tax Collector (1 seat; 3-year term)	Kim Trammell
Treasurer (1 seat; 1-year term)	Mariette Ross
Trustee of Trust Funds (1 seat; 3-year term)	**OPEN**
Cemetery Trustee (1 seat; 3-year term)	Mark Albee
Library Trustees (2 seats; 3-year term)	Fred "Skip" Nason Allie Thompson
Planning Board Members (2 seats)	Eric Dube David Little
Fireward (1 seat; 3-year term)	Dana Littlefield
Fireward – East (1 seat; 3-year term)	John Hartley
School Election:	
School Board Member (1 seat; 3-year term)	Dennis Quinn
School Board Member (1 seat; 1-year term)	**OPEN**
Clerk (1 seat; 1-year term)	Jennifer Mashiak
Treasurer (1 seat; 1-year term)	Jill Lavoie
Moderator (1 seat; 1-year term)	Kent Hemingway Jr.

TAMWORTH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Sundays**
Live from the Lyceum. Featured musician at 1:30, followed by song circle & jam session at 2:30. Free.
- Sundays**
Dinner Bell community meal. 5PM at St. Andrew's Church.
- Mondays**
Congregate meals for 60 years & up. Tamworth Town House, noon-1. Call 539-6851.
- Tuesdays (first three of every month)**
Storytime for young children. Cook Library, 10:30-11:30.
- Tuesdays & Fridays**
Community Food Center at St. Andrew's. Open 10-noon. Call 960-4067.
- Wednesdays, through April 1st**
Chocorua Community Church, Bible study. Noon-1. Bring a sack lunch. Call 323-7186 for info (mornings, Wednesday-Friday).
- Thursdays**
Farmers' Table lunch at the Community School. Starts at noon. By donation; reservations helpful. Call 323-7000.
- Fridays**
Live music at Chequers Villa Restaurant, 6:30-10:30.
- Saturdays (first of every month)**
Open Mic at Tamworth Lyceum, 6:30.
- Saturday, February 28th & Sunday, March 1st**
Sled Dog Races, Chocorua Lake and surrounding trails. 9AM-3PM each day. Free. Call Sheldon Perry at 323-7001 or email sheldon@steepviewcabinetry.com for info.
- Mondays, March 2nd & April 6th**
Bookworms reading club (ages 7-8), Cook Library, 5PM.
- Monday, March 2nd**
Candidates' Night presented by Chocorua Community Association, Brett School cafeteria, 7PM. Come learn about the local candidates.
- Saturday, March 7th**
TCNA presents "My Aching Bones & Arthritis" with Dr. Brian Irwin of Tamworth Family Medicine. 10AM at the Tamworth Lyceum. Free.
- Saturday, March 7th**
Cabin Fever Bake and Book Sale, 10-1, Cook Library. Lunch, silent auction, crafts for kids.
- Saturday, March 7th**
Open-hearth cooking class at Remick Museum, 10-2. \$50/person, ages 18 and above. Call 323-7591.
- Saturday, March 7th**
15th annual end of winter celebration with Hawaiian Luau theme, Runnells Hall, 6-9. DJ, silent auction, sumptuous buffet, and beverages. \$25 per person. Contact chair@chocorualibrary.org for more info.
- Mondays, March 9th & April 13th**
Bibliomaniacs book club (ages 12 & up), Cook Library, 5PM.
- Tuesdays, March 10th & 24th**
Fiber Arts Group, 9:30-noon, Remick Museum. Free (*this does not include access to the museum*). 323-7591.
- Fridays, March 13th & May 1st**
RATs book club (ages 9-11), Cook Library, 5PM.
- Saturdays, 3/14, 3/28, 4/11, & 4/25**
Winter Farmer's Market, 9-1, Tamworth Town House.
- Saturday, March 14th**
Seed starting/heirlooms workshop, 9:30-11:30, Remick Museum. \$15/person, ages 18+. 323-7591.
- Saturday, March 14th**
Soup, Story, & Song, 6-8:30, Community School. By donation. Call 323-7000.
- Monday, March 16th**
Maple Sugaring/Tree Ecology. Home-school class, ages 6-12. \$5/participant. Students must be accompanied by a parent or chaperone. Remick Museum & Farm, 323-7591.
- Tuesdays, March 17th to April 21st**
Tamworth Community Nurse presents "Mindfulness Mediation Workshop" led by Diane Johnson, LCMHC. Cook Library, 5:30-7:30. Registration required and commitment to the six weeks is important. Call 323-8511 for details.
- Wednesday, March 25th**
Poor Houses & Town Farms: The Hard Row for Paupers with Steve Taylor. NH Humanities Council & Tamworth Historical Society present this program at Cook Library, 7PM.
- Friday, March 27th**
Small Farmers Club: Get to Know Cows. Remick Museum & Farm, 10-11AM, ages 2-6. Children must be accompanied for duration of activity. \$5/child; no pre-registration required. 323-7591.
- Saturday, March 28th**
Maple Sugaring Day Open House at Remick Museum, 10-2. Free.
- Thursday, April 9th**
Advice to the Players performs "Romeo and Juliet," 1:30 at K.A. Brett School.
- Saturday, April 11th**
Tamworth Community Nurse presents "Obesity in Children" with Deborah Horner of the American Heart Association. At Tamworth Lyceum, 10AM. Free.
- Wednesday, April 22nd**
Baked Beans and Fried Clams: How Food Defines a Region with Edie Clark. NH Humanities Council & Tamworth Historical Society present this program at Cook Library, 7PM.
- Friday, April 24th**
Snapdragon Theatre Guild performs "Gulliver's Travels" at The Barnstormers Theatre.

Send calendar items to TCNcalendar@gmail.com. Submissions for the May 1st TCN are due by April 12th.

THURNGLAD'S MEADBOWL (EXCERPT)

A story from a thousand years ago of a Nordic warrior finding an innovative use for his enormous wooden meadbowl.

Holding the bowl before him he leaped over the edge. For a moment, such was the strength of his leap, he thought he might not come down, but would fly into the night like an owl. Clutching the bowl to his chest, he prayed, confessing all his sins since boyhood, and asked for a miracle.

The hard-packed, icy snow crunched under the impact, and then he was hurtling downhill, racing along on top of the bowl, bits of snow stinging his face and the wind pulling at his hair. Bumps and hillocks tossed him in the air, and the glowing snow and the sentinel trees raced past and underneath him until he was terrified and overwhelmed with joy. When he reached the bottom he slid for a quarter of a mile, spinning slowly until the stillness enshrouded him, and for a moment he made no move, his legs suspended above the snow. Then a grin slashed his lips, fierce behind his ice-flecked beard. He jumped to his feet and ran back up the mountain.

By morning he had made a dozen runs and was nearly exhausted. The clouds had retreated, as if the stars had pushed them aside to watch, but the only indication that morning had arrived was the lowing of the cattle. When he reached the top once more, a small boy was there, bundled in sheep skin, eyes wide with wonder. Without a word the boy lifted his arms and Thurnglad's smile faltered. He was suddenly aware of tiny faces at the doors of a dozen huts. He swallowed and squared his shoulders.

After nailing a leather strap to the bowl, he placed it next to the boy, settled himself in crosslegged, and pulled the strap up over his knees. Without invitation, the boy climbed into his lap and set his face toward the valley. Thurnglad tugged on the strap to inch them over the lip of the slope and waited for the boy to scream. It never happened. The ride was as wild as any of them, but the boy sat delighted between his knees and faced the descent without flinching. A warrior born, he thought, and was proud of his village. He carried the boy back up on his shoulders, and was greeted at the top by every child in the village, clamoring for a turn.

He pointed sternly to two, and gathered them into his lap. They screamed all the way down, and never had any sound pleased him more. The three of them ran back up the hill and he took two more down with him. Not only children

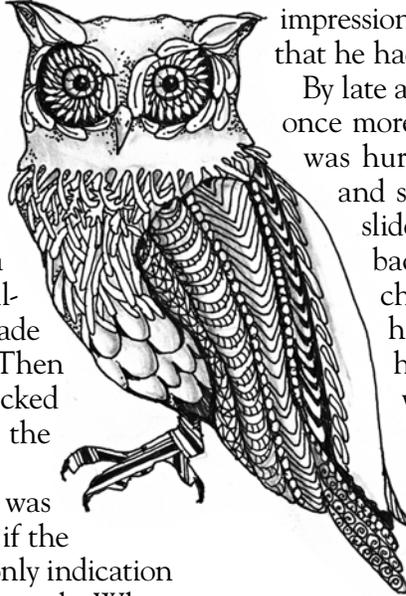
were gathering at the top of the slope, but maids, matrons and crones, warriors, fathers and grandfathers had arrived to watch with puzzled smiles. He spent the whole day giving rides to children and spending his strength as he had never done in any battle, real or imagined.

Melwyn was there as well, leading a few of the shyer children toward him by the hand. Only once did he catch her eye as she placed a child in his lap. The levelness of her gaze unnerved him, and when she gave him a push he was almost killed, and the children with him, for the warm impression of her hands on his back so stirred his heart that he had trouble staying balanced.

By late afternoon, when the grayness was deepening once more into black, every able body in the village was hurtling down the mountain on meadbows and serving trays and anything else that would slide. When at last Thurnglad collapsed on his back, too tired to walk up the hill, the two children with him pulled at him, imploring him to continue the game, but he was spent, his chest heaving like a blacksmith's bellows, with nothing but the joy in his heart to keep him conscious.

Dimly he heard a commotion, and within minutes he was aswarm with children, all pulling and laughing. By some miracle of communal strength they dragged him all the way up the mountain. By the time they reached the top he had regained enough of his breath to let out a roar of triumph into the black and glittering sky. The entire village bellowed back at him, and it was as if the sun had returned, and the ice and the darkness, for all their boastings, had no strength to beat back its rays.

—Mark Eddy Smith



TAMWORTH 250TH UPDATE

The kick off for Tamworth's 250th Celebration in October 2015 will be here sooner than you think and we need your help and input!

The old saying "Many hands make light work" couldn't be more true, and we surely could use your suggestions and participation.

At this time, the Tamworth 250th Steering Committee—along with local businesses, non-profits, organizations, and individuals—have expressed their interest in taking part in the celebrations. Events are being planned and we need people to head up sub-committees. Examples include: Memorabilia, Time Capsule, Quilting Bee, Costume Ball, and more. Suggestions for other commemorative events are welcome.

Look for Tamworth 250th representatives at candidates' night, school meeting, at the polls, and at town meeting. Sign-up sheets will be available at all of these venues.

Please contact Jenn Mashiak for more information. By phone: 986-6046; via email: tamworthnh250@gmail.com.

—Jenn Mashiak



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Year-Round • Most Saturdays

THE VIEW FROM HERE

A recent show on Vermont Public Radio entitled "Making It Through the Long Winter" provided thought-provoking companionship to a solo traveler visiting family across the Connecticut River. As the snow swirled across the highway, fields, and dooryards of the bleak countryside between here and there, the miles passed quickly with the on-air company of host and callers discussing the many ways to embrace winter. In addition to the obvious skiing, sledding, and snowmobiling enjoyed by many in our northern climes, callers also waxed poetic about their delight in feeding the birds, bundling up for a brisk and invigorating walk with the dog, or stepping outside on a crystal-clear evening to breath in the pure air and gaze up at the sharp brilliance of winter's night sky.

Whether you see winter as a bane or a blessing, we here in Tamworth are making it through a very long one. But take heart—it's March! The snow piles are mighty, the plowing budget is stretched thin, and it's time for elections, and town and school meetings. Whatever you do to keep busy during these frigid months, set aside time as the thaw begins to take part in your town's government during the coming weeks. Town meeting season is a true sign of spring; approving funding for swim program, baseball, and Family Day gives assurance that summer will return. And you never know what kind of heat might be generated as each article on the 2015 warrant comes up for a vote.



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