Region

CROP Hunger Walk – A Major Success

/The twenty-fourth Souhegan Valley Interfaith CROP Hunger Walk took place on Sunday afternoon, May 5th, starting and ending at St. Patrick Church in Milford. The event is an annual fund-raiser for global disaster relief and self-help development projects, and also raises money for local concerns: SHARE in Milford and Open Cupboard Pantry in Wilton. Chairman of the Walk this year was Rev. Hank Junkin, pastor of Church of Our Saviour in Milford who helped bring out more walkers and some new business sponsors. The weather was ideal, and 293 people ranging in age from 7 – 82 came out for the 10km (6.2 mile) trek. It now appears the Walk will raise at least $34,000, which would be about 10% more than last year. That money will be put to work feeding hungry people, providing emergency blankets and shelters for victims of natural disasters and bringing development assistance to areas of the world struggling with chronic water and food shortages. The funds collected are managed by Church World Service (CWS) of Elkhart, IN, one of the largest and best managed non-governmental humanitarian aid agencies, with a four-start rating from Charity Navigator. CWS runs the nation-wide CROP Hunger Walk Program, which is responsible for about 1,500 locally-run Walks every year. On the ground, CWS works with many other USAID agencies, both faith-based and secular, to coordinate aid, meeting critical human needs as they arise. Many of these agencies also receive contributions directly through the CROP Walk Program.

In terms of participation, 37 young people (under 18) completed the full 10 km walk, a loop extending up to Amherst Center and back to Milford, including the Milford Oval. The youngest of these were Alessandra Martel (7), Matthew Cobleigh (8) and Heather Whittier (8). A family of six, David and Linda Boissonnault of Merrimack and their four children did the Walk, as well as two families of five (the Cobleighs of Amherst and the Whittiers of Milford). Alessandra Martel, who walked with her mother Stephanie, was the youngest to do the full walk for the third year in a row. She was five years old when she first did the Walk in 2011. The Eldest Walker to complete the full course was Keith Hunt (82). Eleven local faith communities were represented on the Walk (about 85% of the walkers), along with folks from Curves of Milford and 33 people with no particular organizational affiliation.

Special recognition for fund-raising efforts goes to Tom Hunsader of Amherst who collected almost $4,200 in pledges. The Cobleigh family, mostly the boys, Marcus (20), Michael (12) and Matthew (8) together raised $2,200. Stephanie Ouellette of Wilton raised $1,155. Vern Trudo, who was 87 when he did the short version of the walk last year (an inner loop of about 2 miles), did not walk himself this year, but continued his solicitation of pledges, raising about $2,000. Dave Poltack of Amherst and others were "proxy walkers" for Vern. Eight other individuals or family groups reported raising $500 or more.

The Walk is produced with the help of local organizations (such as the Amherst and Milford LIONS Clubs, Milford Rotary and Milford Masonic Lodge) and many area businesses who help with donations and prizes for Walk participants. Special thanks to Hampshire Hills Sports & Fitness Club of Milford, Bravo Pizza of Milford, and Hayward's Ice Cream of Milford, who donated the delicious ice cream enjoyed by everyone at the end of the afternoon. For more information about the Souhegan Valley Interfaith CROP Hunger Walk, contact Walk Coordinator John David, JGDavid@aol.com.

James Edmunds, Kayla Barnes, Kimmie Edmunds, SHS Volunteers for Walk Safety

Walk Start 2013

Animal Rescue League, Bedford

Pets of the Week - Josie and Dippy!

Hi there! Are you here to take me home? Let's go! My name is Josie, I'm one year-old, and I am sweet and friendly and playful. I was found as a stray. I need a forever home, quickly please!

Hi, My name is Dippy! I am a 10 month old male terrier-mix. The nice people here at the shelter think that I would do best in a home with older children, ages 13 and up and a home that has no cats. I would need to go slow when meeting other dogs and I could really use some training. If you have time for me and think we would be a great match, I would love to meet you!

If you would like more information on these or any of our adoptable animals, please visit www.rescueleague.org.

Barn cats need homes! Please call 471-0888 if you can help!

River Quality Monitoring Begins 17th Summer

"A beautiful day to start the season," reported one of the twenty-plus volunteer monitors that went out early Tuesday morning to begin water quality sampling on the local Merrimack and Souhegan Rivers. After several very hot days and periods of local rain prior to the testing and after the rivers have been coming down from very high flows after recent heavy rains, monitors collected E. coli samples, dissolved oxygen samples, water and air temperatures, and general observations from their individual sites.

Since this was the first time at the test sites, almost all monitors reported accumulations of trash – which they picked up. To make up for that, they also reported how beautiful and peaceful it was to be close to the river early in the morning. Lots of birds and animal tracks were noted. Others were out early too. The rowing club was out practicing in their sculls near the Hudson bridge and a few fishermen were sighted.

The rivers have receded a bit from high flows after a week of recent rains, but flows were still higher than normal for this time of year. The upper Souhegan as measured in west Milford was running at about 180 cubic feet per second; historically it should be down to about 83cfs. The Merrimack was flowing at 6000 cfs and normal is 4000. This makes for pleasant canoeing right now - there is a canoe guide and canoe trips listed at souheganriver.org.

Dissolved oxygen levels are typically very good at this time of year and that is what monitors discovered this week. Dissolved oxygen is an indicator for good fish health.

E. coli bacteria counts should have varied from probable high counts during the recent heavy rains, but enough time has passed to reduce the bacteria in both rivers. The monitoring program uses 88 as the standard for acceptable bacteria levels in the rivers. This is the standard used for public swimming beaches in NH. E. coli bacteria levels this week were generally healthy, but several sites showed higher than acceptable levels. Higher than acceptable levels can cause swimmer's ear and eye or gastrointestinal problems, especially for more-vulnerable people.

The pattern seen on both rivers was typical for what has been seen in past years. E. coli levels were generally good for the entire length of the Merrimack between Manchester and Tyngsborough. There was one count of 161 at the Thorntons Ferry site. The other seven sites were marginal but acceptable. The best result, 41, was seen at Greeley Park.

On the upper section of the Souhegan, from Ashburnham to Wilton, E. coli counts were all acceptable. From Milford to the mouth of the river in Merrimack all of the counts were not acceptable. There was one exception – Watson Park in Merrimack, near the mouth of the river, tested at 74, acceptable. This is a spot where there is swimming/bathing activity. Other swimming holes on the Souhegan were: the Horseshoe, Wilton 73, Boston Post Road Canoeport, Amherst 261, Indian Ledges, Merrimack 93, Turkey Hill Bridge, Merrimack 155.

The next test will be done on June 18. There are still a couple of sites that could use a volunteer. Tests take about a half hour and are conducted every other Tuesday morning through September. Anyone interested can contact Karen Mattor at swawatertesting@gmail.com for more information.

The lab tests are all done by certified personel at the wastewater treatment plants in Manchester, Milford, Nashua, and Merrimack. The program is coordinated by the Souhegan Watershed Association.

E-COLI Monitoring Results for Tests Taken June 4

SOUHEGAN RIVER SITES:

1. Billy Ward Pond, Ashburnham #1-5.2 #2-8.5
2. SoR 333 River Road above Water Loom Pond, New Ipswich NA
3. SoR 320 Highbridge, New Ipswich 31.1
4. SoR 309 Above Greenville Mill Pond, Greenville 74.9
5. SoR 296 Downtown Greenville upstream of WWTP 58.3
6. SoR 291 Green Bridge off Rte 31 below Greenville WWTP 95.9
7. SoR 218 Below the Horseshoe, Wilton 73.3
8. SoR 210 Downtown Wilton 34.1
9. SoR 201 Pine Valley Mill, West Milford NA
10. SoR 170 Behind Hayward Field, West Milford NA
11. SoR 155 Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club, Milford 145.0
12. SoR 146 Swing Bridge, Milford 193.5
13. SoR 133 Riverside Cemetery, Milford 129.6
14. SoR 130 Behind Lorden Plaza, Milford NA
15. SoR 122 Amherst Country Club 186.0
16. SoR 116 Amherst Conservation land Fairway Rd, Amherst 157.6
17. SoR 095 Boston Post Road Canoeport, Amherst 261.3
18. Sor 070 Seaverns Bridge, Merrimack 146.7
19. SoR 057 Indian Ledges, Merrimack 93.4
20. SoR 034 Turkey Hill Bridge, Merrimack 155.3
21. SoR 001 Watson Park, DW Hwy, Merrimack 73.8
22. Purgatory Brook, Lyndeborough/Mont Vernon NA

Flow on Upper Souhegan was 180 CFS and expected flow for that date is 83
Flow on Lower Souhegan was 185 CFS and historic flow for that date is 165
RAINFALL - Some rain Monday morning. Otherwise hot and dry.
River temperature: Souhegan 20C

The main house, formerly Mont Vernon Inn, is currently under renovation.

The Mont Vernon – The "Inn" Place to Live

MONT VERNON - Nestled in the picturesque village of Mont Vernon sits the historic and charming, Mont Vernon Inn. The Inn was purchased in 2008 by Rolf and Laurie Biggers, owners of BMA Architectural Group in Amherst. Since March, the renovation of the Inn has begun and has an anticipated completion date of Spring, 2014. Upon completion, the Inn will be distinguished by its "fineness" in design; the blend of old and new. This 10 dwelling pocket neighborhood will house 6 freshly designed and spacious residences within the Inn building and 4 additional unique detached homes, one of which is the newly renovated "Carriage House". The units are not age restricted and are designed for active mature living. The units will range in size from 1,000-1,600 square feet and range in price from $265,000 to $ 465,000. All residences will have an open concept floor plan with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, garage, laundry, traditional wood floors, and a gas fire wood stove. In addition many relaxing outdoor spaces will be provided for the enjoyment of the beautifully landscaped open space. Each home will be tastefully appointed with high quality appliances, millwork, hardware, fixtures and slate and porcelain tile. Highly efficient and cost effective geothermal heating and cooling, upgraded walls and triple glazed windows, maintenance free finishes and a state of the art water filtration system are included in a comprehensive package offering modern day living in a historic village setting. Architectural and Interior design services are available to customize the unit of your choice. Tours of the "Carriage House" are warmly welcomed and encouraged. For an appointment, please call Victoria Castle at 673-1991 and visit our website: http://www.montvernonhomes.com

Celebrate Wilton 2013!

A Community Festival – June 15

The Wilton Main Street Association will be hosting the annual Celebrate Wilton – A Main Street Community Festival on Saturday, June 15th. The festivities will run from 9 am -4 pm and feature The Mason's pancake breakfast, the Lions Duck Race, a performance by Andy's Summer Playhouse, Alex the Jester, live music performed by Doc Doherty, The Troubadours, and Sweet Tooth, games and activities, food and craft vendors, etc. There is still space available for crafters, artists, etc. Come discover our Wilton Main Street Merchants and celebrate the start of summer! For information regarding vendor opportunities or to volunteer please contact Pat Condon at 603 654 3020 or email wmsa@tds.net.

This schedule has been set to the best of our ability. All times listed are approximate and could be changed slightly. For any questions contact The Wilton Main Street Association at wmsa@tds.net or 654-3020 .

June 15, 2013 – Schedule of Events

7:00AM – 10:00AM	Pancake Breakfast, sponsored by Clinton Lodge #52 (The Wilton Main St. Park)
9:00AM – 4:00PM	Wilton Library – Face Painting and Games Wilton Main St. Park
9:00AM – 4:00PM	"Andy's Summer Playhouse" – children can try on costumes and learn information about the theater. Wilton Main St. Park
9:00AM – 4:00PM	The Community Center – kids games, goodies, etc. Wilton Main St. Park
9:00AM – 4:00PM	Craft/Vendor Fair, along Main St. and Wilton Park
9:00AM – 4:00PM	Food provided by food vendors and merchants
9:00AM – 4:00PM	Putnam's – Raffle - $50 Good for services or goods
9:00AM – 4:00PM	Riverview Mills – crafts and artisans
9:00AM – 4:00PM	C&S Pizza – Greek Specialties & Italian favorites
9:30AM – 10:30AM	Doc Dougherty
10:45AM – 11:00AM	"Andy's Summer Playhouse" Performance in the Park
11:00AM – 1:00PM	"The Troubadours" - Wilton Main St. Park
1:00PM	Wilton Library Presents "Alex the Jester" in the Park
2:00PM – 4:00PM	"Sweet Tooth"– Wilton Main St. Park
4:30PM	Wilton Town Hall Theatre – FREE Movie
3:00PM – 4:00PM	Duck Race, sponsored by The Lions Club

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